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THE TIMES

Market Blandings: competition winners on page 14

Fewer fires help troops to minimize strike effects

Fewer fires than usual were reported by the public yesterday, the first day of Britain's first national strike by firemen. Support for the action among the 43,000 members of the Fire Brigades Union was almost complete, but a reduction in the number of fires helped the 10,000 specially trained fire-fighters from the Armed Forces to cope. Talks aimed at resolving the dispute were adjourned after two hours, but they will be resumed today. An emergency debate on the strike will be held in the Commons today.

Talks stalled: Debate in the Commons today

By Martin Huckerby

Britain yesterday survived without serious incident its first day in modern history without a proper fire service. Last night the temporary firemen from the Armed Forces appeared to be coping successfully. Fewer fires than usual were reported by the public.

Support for the strike among the 43,000 members of the Fire *Brigades Union was almost* complete. Only in a few rural areas did enough men remain at work to add appreciably to the cover provided by part-time firemen and by the 10,000 specially trained Servicemen.

There was no sign of any swift end to the dispute: talks between the union and local authority representatives were *adjourned after two hours, and* little progress appeared to have been made. Later today there will be a three-hour emergency debate in the Commons about the strike.

So far the worst fears about the possible effects of the strike have not been realized. No deaths were reported. The worst injury during the day was to a *woman aged 84*, who was badly burnt in a fire near Chesterfield.

There was a big fire at a large scrapyard at Brownhills, Staffordshire, where eight army fire crews were in action. But in no case was an outbreak beyond the control of the Servicemen and the fairly limited equipment at their disposal.

The 700 Civil Defence appliances known as "Green Goddesses" are lacking in long ladders, and the dangers that that might present in tower blocks was illustrated in a fire in a fifth-floor flat in *Birmingham. Hoses roped* together had to be hoisted up to reach the fire. Two members of 29 Commando Regiment were given oxygen after being affected by smoke.

Another big fire was in a furniture store in the centre of Leicester. Army firefighters with three Green *Goddeses* took more than an hour and a half to control the fire. Damage estimated at £100,000 was caused, but the police praised the troops for doing "a fantastic *job*."

The Servicemen were helped by an apparent reduction in the usual number of fires, although many hoax calls were reported.

Government advertisements have been urging people to *take precautions* at *home* and work. Cooperative action by neighbours, such as a bucket chain formed to put out a fire at Elland, near Halifax, has helped in handling smaller fires.

Policemen, who have been checking alarm calls before the Servicemen are called out, have often been able to quell small *fires with extinguishers from* their patrol cars.

The Fire Brigades Union said yesterday that about 98 per cent of its members were on strike. In a few counties, such as Hampshire and Sussex, many stayed at work, and in one or two areas, such as Cornwall, the many part-timers were able to provide almost full cover.

There were some cases of threats against firemen who crossed picket lines and threats from the public against those who had gone on *strike*.

However, Mr Gordon Newton, assistant general secretary of the Retained Firemen's Union, which represents part-time firemen, complained angrily about "saboteurs" who had tampered *with their appliances*.

In many cases firemen took keys from appliances and locked station doors as they walked out to prevent anyone from using them. There were also reports of strikers following senior officers to fires to ensure that the senior men only advised the troops on how to tackle the blazes and did not take part in the work.

Among the high-risk fire areas, *Glasgow escaped fairly* lightly. Troops successfully tackled a fire in a paper factory and authorities in Strathclyde *reported fewer outbreaks* than usual.

The dispute was not without *its lighter side*: At Abingdon firemen on the picket line interrupted their strike to save the public house opposite their station.

A warning of the grimmer aspects of the strike came in Edinburgh from Mr Ewing, *Under-Secretary of State* at the Scottish Office, who said that buildings might have to be left to burn out if lives were not in danger.

When asked what the union would do if anyone died in a fire, a Fire Brigades Union official said: "If we lose a couple of people it does not mean that if the *fire service* had been working at full order they would still not have died."

Christopher Walker writes from Belfast: Fears of a concerted Provisional IRA fire-bombing campaign to coincide with the firemen's *strike* were not realized during daylight hours yesterday. But evening rush-hour *traffic* in east Belfast was diverted as army experts inspected a suspected bomb. Earlier two incendiary devices had been *planted, both in provincial towns*, but neither caused damage.

Arson charge: A man will appear before Birmingham magistrates today charged with arson after a fire at a city tower block which started just before the strike (the Press *Association reports*).

Thirty people were led to safety and four, including a pregnant woman and a man who suffered a heart attack, were taken to hospital.

The fire, at the 16-storey Medway Tower in Cromwell Street, Nechells, was put out by firemen using breathing apparatus.

All 21 members *of the* Fire Brigades Union at the part-time station at Teignmouth, Devon, resigned from the union

Members of the Confederation of Health Service Employees have been advised not to tackle big hospital fires during the strike.

Mr Albert Spanswick, the union's general secretary, said: "*Cohse members should give* priority to evacuating patients and should attempt to deal only with the kind of minor fires which they would *deal* with in normal circumstances."

Our Labour Editor writes: Discussions in quest of a long-term solution to firemen's pay grievances were adjourned after two hours on the first day of the men's official strike yesterday.

The talks, between leaders of the Fire Brigades Union and the local authority employers, which are regarded by ministers as the only politically *acceptable way out of the* crisis, will be resumed today. *The rudiments of a formula* giving firemen a special position in the pay league may be available for joint talks tomorrow.

The question remaining is whether the union executive, meeting on Thursday, will regard the outcome of the talks as sufficient to recall the firemen's delegate conference, which alone can call off the strike.

The employers were not optimistic after talks with Mr Terence Parry, general secretary of the FBU. But a spokesman of the local authorities said: "I am *not going to say* there will be a magic solution on Wednesday. But this is the basis for a settlement, taking into account a reduction of the working week and settling the firemen's true position in the wages structure."

The TUC has shown no sign of intervening in an official dispute that breaks no congress *policy*.

Mr Parry has kept Mr Len Murray, general secretary, informed, and yesterday Mr Murray cancelled his departure on an official TUC delegation to Algeria, but he may leave today.

The firemen's strike puts the TUC in an acute political dilemma; support of the stoppage would be *construed* as opposition to Government's incomes policy, which would encourage other groups of workers to "try it on".

More Belfast news and photograph, page 2
Parliamentary report, page 10

A soldier receiving oxygen after being overcome by smoke at a Birmingham fire yesterday.

Old lines of battle on devolution reappear

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

As the expected marathon on the devolution Bills for Scotland and Wales opened in the Commons yesterday with the second reading of the Scotland Bill, there were few signs of any change from the old battle lines established in the same cause during the previous session of Parliament.

The Conservative proposal to reject the Scotland Bill and set up a constitutional conference was defeated by 313 votes to 265—, Government majority 48.

A few minutes after Mr Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, had risen to proclaim that the Bill (to be swiftly followed today by its sister measure, the Wales Bill) represented a "major constitutional change", the Government could have been under no illusion about the troubled waters into *which it was sailing*.

Already on the order paper was an amendment from that unswerving opponent of devolution *Mr Leo Abse, Labour MP* for Pontypool, demanding a referendum for Shetland. That was not accepted by the Speaker, but Mr Abse will return with his proposal during later stages of the Bill.

From the Conservative benches opposition to devolution seemed to have consolidated behind the call from Mr *Francis Pym, leading for his* party, that all ideas for separate assemblies should be scrapped until there had been a constitutional conference.

Nor could the Government gain much comfort from its own benches. As with the ill fated Scotland and Wales Bill of the previous session, there were so many divergent views and so *many ramifications that no one*, with the possible exception of the Secretary of State and Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the House, *could have been detected* as giving wholehearted support.

As Mr Alfred Evans, Labour MP for Caerphilly, pointed out, Mr Millan showen the same enthusiasm for the Scotland and Wales Bill, yet the Government *now admitted that it had had* many faults.

From all sides Mr Millan found himself besieged. Mr Abse, Mr George Cunningham, Mr Eric Hefier and Mr John Mendelson thundered anathemas from the Labour benches.

Mr Millan staggered on, asserting that the four guiding principles behind the measure *remained sacrosanct: respect for the diversity* and distinctive traditions of Scotland and Wales, conservation of the *economic and political union* of the United Kingdom, the continuing and unimpaired sovereignty of Parliament and fairness to the whole of the United Kingdom.

But while Mr Millan contended that the issue had been before the country for at least 50 years, Mr Pym maintained that the question of devolution *had been badly thought out* and that *no single view had gained* majority support.

Mr Millan said Parliament was being presented with an historic opportunity to make a constitutional advance that it could not afford to let slip. The proposed reform would strengthen the unity of the United Kingdom; failure to reach a decision could weaken that unity.

Psychological warfare, page 4
Parliamentary report, page 10
When energy runs out, page 21

Britain's third monthly trade surplus gives best figures since 1971

By Melvyn Westlake

Britain achieved its third consecutive monthly trade surplus during October and had the best performance on the overseas trade accounts in any three-month period since early 1971.

A variety of special factors actually caused a drop in the visible *surplus* last month, to £31m, from the September level of £80m. But, the addition of the usual surplus on invisibles trade in services, profits from abroad and some government transactions—means that the country was in the black on the overall current account to the sum of £206m last month, against £255m in September.

Taking the first 10 months of 1977, Britain has exactly broken even on current account, and seems certain to end up this year in surplus. It will be the first year since 1972, during the early stages of the last economic boom, that the country has enjoyed a surplus on its current account.

Unless there is a sudden and unexpected deterioration in the trade accounts during November and December, the surplus for 1977—seems likely to be *close to the Treasury forecast* of about £250m.

This would be a big improvement on recent years. The deficit on the current account in 1976 was £1,405m, which was itself an improvement from the £3,565m deficit during 1974 in the wake of the quintupling of world oil prices.

However, the underlying trends for exports and imports are not as comforting as the overall figures suggest. In particular, *imports remain stubbornly* high, given the depressed level of output.

Government economists were last year attemptiing to explain the high level of imports as pre-emptive stockbuilding, prompted by fears of import controls. But it is becoming harder to resist the conclusion that import propensities have risen sharply.

Indeed, imports are now officially expected to rise by about 11 per cent between the second half of 1977 and the second half of 1978, with much of this increase stemming directly from the boost *delivered* to the economy by Mr Healey, the Chancellor, at the end of last month.

By contrast, exports are expected to increase by only about 6 per cent over the same *period*.

This means that Britain's

Continued, page 19, col 1

CBI split over pay reform plan

From Malcolm Brown
Brighton

Industrial leaders are to press *for a complete reform of* the pay bargaining system. Mr John Methven, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, received a mandate from delegates to the CBI's first national conference, at Brighton, yesterday to seek talks with the Government and the TUC aimed at reaching early agreement on the shape *the new system* would take.

But delegates, who had throughout the day been backing resolutions with near unanimous approval, were clearly spilt over pay bargaining and the majority in favour of the *motion* was much smaller than the CBI leadership must have hoped for.

That means that the confederation will have to take the issue back to its grand council and probably rewrite sections of its own proposals to take into account the vociferously expressed fears of many of the speakers.

*The system the CBI leader*ship was proposing would involve setting up machinery to decide what the nation can afford to pay itself, accompanied by a much shorter pay round, probably linked closely to the Budget, and an attempt to get closer synchronization of pay settlements.

The proposal for a body to decide what the *nation* could afford drew strong protests from several speakers, who protested that it would deteriorate into yet another system of pay norms.

Mr George Cattell, director-general of the National Farmers' Union, said that "what the nation can afford" would soon

Continued on page 4, col 4

Callaghan call for EEC changes

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

It is a pretence and a disservice to the European Econo*mic Community to suggest that* all is going well, Mr Callaghan, the Prime Minister, told politicians and businessmen last night at the Lord Mayor's banquet.

He agreed that all the member states were more fully aware of the extent to which developed industrial societies shared common problems and *understood that policies should* beharmonized as far as possible to solve them.

Summing up the present position, Mr Callaghan said: "We will not try to change the concept of a common system; but we do wish to change those features which produce uneconomic and unwanted surpluses at great cost....

"*Our task, as committed* members of the EEC, is to contribute to the means of resolving them in a manner which takes full account of our differences but is also forward-looking and constructive.

"In this spirit, we do not believe that the Community can develop into a federation. Our view is that Europe will make most progress if the rights of national governments and parliaments are upheld.

In spite of his reservations, *Mr Callaghan said, Britain was* committed to working for a successful and cohesive Community. "The future of the Community is an emotive subject and to utter anything other than the conventional wisdom is regarded by some people as being as bad as shouting in church.

"But it is a disservice to the *Community, to pretend* that things are what they obviously are not."

Full report, page 6

Less spent on food despite much advertising

By Hugh Clayton

The amount of food eaten *at home by British families* is falling despite lavish advertising by some of the largest companies. The National Food Survey showed yesterday that the amount of family spending devoted to food had decreased *since 1970 and that the weight* eaten of many traditional foods had dropped sharply.

The trend was so marked that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food stated that individual consumption of bread was *lower than ever before*.

The country is still very far from starvation, however. People in the United Kingdom still tend to be too fat. The tendency to eat less has been masked since 1970 by furious debate about health in the diet and the virtues of fresh and organic as oposed to processed and technological foods.

The *survey*, drawn from 7,000 households, shows that while there has been greater consumption of supposedly healthier *foods* the increase has been very small and confined mainly to wealthier families. Despite frequent criticisms of the large wrapped loaf, it provides 52 of every 100 slices of bread eaten in this country, while brown bread accounts for about 12.

The survey shows that the domestic freezer is by far the most important instrument for *change in the diet of the 1970s*. Its use by more than a quarter of British families helps to account for a large increase in *sales of frozen foods*.

The number of children in a family was found greatly to affect the quality of its diet, irrespective of its income.

Changes in the national diet are shown in the table:

(ave consumption, oz a head, week)	1970	1974	1976
Cheese	5.5	5.7	5.8
Beef	7.7	7.4	7.8
Bacon	5.2	4.1	4.2
Sugar	16.7	13.0	12.2
Fresh potatoes	51.0	45.7	35.3
Frozen chips	n a	0.5	0.6
Bread: large white, sliced	20.1	18.9	17.6
Bread: wholewheat and wholemeal	0.6	0.6	0.7
Index of consumer spending*	100	111	111
Index of household spending on goods*	100	100	101

* at 1970 prices
Source: National Food Survey

Tax officers withdraw rebate threat

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

Tax officers last night withdrew a threat not to handle tax rebates resulting from the Chancellor's *latest measures. Nearly* all taxpayers should therefore get the money in time for Christmas.

After a meeting of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation's national executive Mr Anthony Christopher, the general secretary, said it would have been wrong to stand in the way of the Chancellor's measures. The decision would be reviewed in January.

But the union, which has been seeking extra money for "Budget fatigue", will ban overtime and put emphasis on "accuracy rather than output".

Lufthansa on terror alert

Frankfurt, Nov 14.—On the eve of a purported terrorist deadline for rocket attacks on Lufthansa passenger aircraft, the West German airline today ordered its pilots to fly special missile-evasion patterns.

Normal safety restrictions on flights over housing areas, oil *refineries and other sensitive* installations have been waived since Friday to permit random changes in take-off and landing procedures at West German airports.

Airports spokesmen said they are receiving many calls from angry residents as Lufthansa jets approach or leave airports from unpredictable directions.

The new "random approach and departure flight procedures", expected to be in force for at least three or four weeks, were among the many security precautions being *taken as authorities waited to* see whether terrorists will try to implement threats to blow up three Lufthansa airliners from tomorrow onwards as a reprisal for the deaths in jail of three Baader-Meinhof gang members on October 18.—AP.

Plea for government aid after £1m storm damage

By Staff Reporters

Three Lancashire councils yesterday appealed for government aid after storm damage had been estimated at £1m. Weather forecasters offered little hope of an early end to the gales.

Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde district councils *made their* plea in telegrams to the Prime Minister and the Department of the Environment after widespread flooding of coastal areas.

The London Weather Centre said last night that an unusually deep depression that had moved south-east from Iceland would continue, and that strong wind would be accompanied by rain with snow, sleet and hail in places.

Gusts of up to 90 mph were recorded in many places yesterday and exposed coastal areas were again pounded by high seas. Merseyside and North Wales experienced some of the worst weather with a gust of 98 mph *recorded* at the Royal Seaforth Dock, Crosby. Ferry services between Birkenhead and Wallasey and Liverpool were suspended.

The Dublin car ferry, Munster, was stormbound in Trafalgar Dock, Liverpool, for more than three hours. At Cammell Laird's yard at Birkenhead a thousand children who arrived for the launching of a tanker were turned away. It will take place today if the wind has moderated sufficiently.

Along the North *Wales coast* the railway line was blocked between Rhyl and Abergele at high tide and houses at Prestatyn were inundated for the second time in two days when a 75 mph gale sent waves over the sea wall.

At Fleetwood, Lancashire, where parts of the town were under several feet of water on Saturday, yesterday's high tides brought renewed flooding. The inshore lifeboat from Blackpool, which had been transported by road was used in the streets.

In the North Sea the crew of *five were rescued after a British* coaster, the Nimrod, had sunk a few miles off Norfolk. Three were taken off by RAF helicopters, one by the Cromer lifeboat and another by a Dutch tanker.

Inland, speed *restrictions* were in force on many motorways. Two lorries were blown over on the M1 in Nottinghamshire, and the Mam Tor road in the Peak District, connecting Chapel-en-le-Frith and Sheffield, was closed.

Danish bacon may be scarce in British shops in the next fortnight because of the loss of 1,000 tonnes when a container ship foundered between Esbjerg, Denmark, and Grimsby on Saturday.

Weather forecast, page 2

Biko 'attacked interrogators'

Steve Biko, the South African black consciousness leader, attacked the security police during interrogation, an inquest into his death was told. An autopsy report said Mr Biko died of an extensive *brain injury*. Major Harold Snyman, of the Port Elizabeth security police, denied that Mr Biko had been assaulted during interrogation Page 7

Bank move resented

Tentative approaches have been made to local authorities and nationalized industries to persuade them to switch their accounts from London clearing banks to the Bank of England. This further move into the commercial sphere has led to a rift with the clearers Page 19

Bordeaux harvest

This year's harvest in the vineyards of Bordeaux is less than half of a normal one and a third of the exceptional harvest of 1976. But quality is high. Prices have been *fixed to avoid excessive* rises Page 6

Guide on homeless

The Department of the Environment has issued guidance on the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act, which comes into force on December 1. Local authorities are urged to adopt a sympathetic and practical approach to homeless people Page 3

Leyland reorganize

Mr Michael Edwardes, British Leyland's new executive chairman, is expected to announce tomorrow organizational and management changes that will include the *cars division being split into five profit* accountable units. Mr Edwardes emphasized recently the need for decentralization within the company Page 19

Arab summit planned

An Arab summit conference will be held on February 15, the Arab foreign ministers' conference in Tunis decided. This was a victory for Egypt which resisted pressure from other Arab states for an immediate summit to define strategy against Israel Page 6

'Think tank' hearings

Sir Michael Palliser, Permanent Under-Secretary at the *Foreign Office*, and Mr Curtis Keeble, the Chief Clerk, will be the main witnesses when a Commons committee begins a series of public hearings on the "think tank" report on Britain's overseas representation Page 7

Free school meals: A quarter of children who eat school dinners are expected to claim free meals as a result of new income eligibility 2

Italian wines: A four-page Special Report looks at their increasing popularity

On other pages

FIREMEN'S STRIKE

Belfast strikers fear public and Government may try to blame them for any fire deaths

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

Government officials expressed relief last night that the early stages of the strike in Northern Ireland were marked by a drop in the usual number of emergency calls. The most serious of three tackled by the Army was a fire in a derelict house on Belfast's peace line. It was soon extinguished.

Support for the strike was almost complete among Northern Ireland's 500 full-time firemen, although part-timers in many rural areas were still providing cover. Threats were made that the union cards of the part-timers would be withdrawn when the stoppage ends.

Among incidents handled by the part-time men was a fatal equipment was used to free two injured men in an army lorry. A third soldier was killed in the crash.

Woman switchboard operators at the headquarters of the Northern Ireland Fire Authority have joined the strike. The Government denied allegations that troops had taken over the communications centre, maintaining that the soldiers on duty were acting as liaison officers with the senior fire chiefs who continued to work.

At fire stations in Belfast and Londonderry, the two cities most at risk, pickets were mounted from 9 am and remained throughout the day despite strong wind and rain. The mood of the strikern was defiant, Belfast firemen bitterly rejected government pleas that Ulster should be treated as a special case becaune of the Provisional IRA threat.

One hundred and eighty soldiers and fire-fighting experts from the three Services were on standby, ready to man the 15 "Green Goddesses" shipped over at the weekend. In addition, they have three pumps which have to be towed to any fire. Despite the relative calm of the first day of the strike, security chiefs remain suspicious of the intentions of the Provisional IRA, which has planted more than 400 firebombs in Ulster this year. Six exploded in business premises around the centre of Belfast on Sunday night.

A firemen said: "Our boys were involed in fighting both fires, as they have been in those caused by the hundreds of other attacks against the city centre. "But no one ever thinks of the money we have saved by putting them out."

The strikers were convinced yesterday that hostility would soon build up as property, and possibly lives were lost in unattended fires.

Mr William Broadhurst, a leading fireman said: "Psychologically we have tried to prepare ourselves for that, and for the probability that the Government will try to blame us for deaths that we could not have saved even in normal circumstances."

Dangerous plants may have to close

Companies faced with particular fire hazards were urged by the Health and Safety Executive yesterday to consider shutting down the riskiest processes during the firemen's strike. The executive also warned all employers that they had a continuing duty to meet legal requirements covering workers' safety.

In a statement, the executive said: "Plant presenting special risks of outbreak and spread of fire should be reviewed and the possibility of discontinuing its use should be considered where this is reasonably practicable.

"If a process is closed down to minimize fire hazard special precautions should be taken to ensure that a new risk is not introduced.

Patricia Tisdall writes: Retailers, most of whom are carrying extra valuable stocks during the build-up to Christmas, increased their fire security arrangements yesterday.

Places may be left to burn out

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

A warning that buildings may have to be left to burn out during the firemen's strike as long as lives are not in danger was given yesterday in Edinburgh by Mr Ewing, Under-Secretary of State at the Scottish Office.

The number of Green Goddess appliances operated by service crews in Scotland will be increased to 130 today, and two Royal Navy teams expert in the use of breathing equipment will be standing by. About 1,600 troops stationed throughout Scotland are working 12-hour shifts to handle emergencies.

By yesterday evening many fewer fires than usual had been reported. In the Strathclyde region, where 51 people have died in fires this year, there was only a handful of minor outbreaks instead of the usual daily average of 80 emergencies.

Mr Richard Knowlton, the firemaster, said lack of breathing equipment might become a serious handicap. Last year firemen made 176 rescues from burning buildings, using the apparatus: most were in Glasgow. None of the military firemen has been trained in the use of breathing equipment.

Glasgow has one of the worst fire records in Europe, and 600 troops with 45 Green Goddesses are standing by there. All normal fire-fighting equipment, including the turntable ladders, is locked away in the Strathclyde Region's 41 full-time fire stations.

The biggest outbreak yesterday was at the wastepaper mill of John W. Hannay, of East Kilbride, when 400 tons of paper was destroyed.

All Glasgow's firemen are supporting the strike. The Rev Geoffrey Shaw, convener of Strathclyde Region, said precautions were as good as could be.

Mr Ewing, speaking at a press conference, said that because of the lack of breathing equipment there might be cases where buildings would have to be left to burn provided no one was in danger. The saving of life had priority over property.

Ronald Kershaw writes: In West Yorkshire about 30 fire appliances and 200 troops were standing by and a small rubbish fire was put out by troops at Bradford.

Union officials said there was almost complete support, but part-time fireman manned Normanton and Featherstone stations.

Senior fire officers, who are not members of the Fire Brigades Union, reported for duty at one or two stations. A union official at Bradford said the men would "not be too happy" with them when the strike was over.

A picket making his grievance plain outside Lambeth fire station.

Mr Mulley gets a close look at five 'Green Goddesses' with Royal Artillery crews

Hoax calls as army substitutes move in

By Philip Howard

As political head of the troops who are providing the emergency fire services, Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, yesterday became temporary chief national fireman. He has 10,000 men available for fire-fighting, as many as are needed to run the equipment available, including 125 magnificent Bedford "Green Goddesses" at least 20 years old.

Yesterday Mr Mulley visited the troops at Finsbury Barracks, in City Road, London, usually the headquarters of the Honourable Artillery Company, now for the duration of the firemen's strike the headquarters of the eastern sector of the special London fire centres. About 60 recruits from the Royal Artillery Deport at Woolwich are manning five Green Goddesses and their attendant vehicles.

It was a setting for an Ealing comedy, rich with the atmosphere of the 1950s. Battle-bowlers rested on the seats of the antique lorries, which leaked water at every hose and spigot. Field guns from the Boer War decorated the entrance to the HAC headquarters. The only modern vehicles on view were the police motor-cycles for escorting the fire-fighters, and they were German BMW.

Mr Mulley clambered precariously up the back of a Green Goddess, bunted from behind by Major-General John Swinton, General Officer Commanding London District. Mr Mulley said: "The Armed Services cannot provide the same cover as the professional fire service. We shall do our best with the equipment we have got. My concern is to make sure that we at the Ministry of Defence are giving the maximum support to these troops as they try to meet the emergency."

General Swinton described the Green Goddesses as very workmanlike, rather unsophisticated, old Civil Defence vehicles, unsuitable for London because the ladders on their roofs are only 30ft long. At least they have not been driven far. The one that the Secretary of State scrambled on had only 606 miles on the clock.

Mr Mulley denied that the troops were being used for strike-breaking. He said: "The soldiers are quite satisfied that they have a responsibility to deal with the emergency. There is nothing unusual in using the Armed Services in a civilian emergency to minimize loss of life and damage."

While he was at Finsbury, the soldiers tackled the first London fire successfully in a Camberwell rubbish skip. General Swinton told Mr Mulley that they were getting far more hoax calls than usual. Unlike the fire brigade, the troops do not go out until the police have confirmed that it is a genuine call. Mr Mulley said he was satisfied with the arrangements in the short time available.

In the shadow of the tower blocks of the Barbican it was difficult not to adapt the Duke of Wellington: "I do not know what effect these precautions will have upon fires, but, by God, they terrify me."

'Tribune' plea to Mr Rees

By Our Political Correspondent

The *Tribune* Group of Labour MPs decided last night to to make direct representations to Mr Rees, Home Secretary, on the firemen's strike.

They were supporting a motion tabled yesterday by Mr James Sillars, Scottish Labour Party MP for Ayrshire, South, a former member of the Fire Brigades Union, quoting from a speech made by Mr Rees at the union's conference and referring to "a pay policy which should be fair and flexible".

It also asked the Government to have another look at the claim made by the firemen that they are being left behind in the adjustment of wages in the public sector.

The group nominated a delegation, to be led by Mr Edward Fletcher, MP for Darlington, and the group's chairman, who will seek an urgent interview with Mr Rees.

A Chelsea drain defeats Guards

By Stewart Tendler

The hardest task facing the 200 substitute firemen at Chelsea Barracks, London, yesterday proved to be an unsuccessful attempt at unblocking a drain.

For the rest of their day the 200 firemen troops for the Guards' Depot at Pirbright, based at Chelsea were detailed off, polished the "Green Goddess" engines, or rolled out the hosing and rolled it up again.

Wales TUC warning to part-timers

By Tim Jones

The Wales TUC gave a warning to part-time firemen yesterday not to "don the mantle of moonlighting strike-breakers" by performing routine and non-emergency work. It said the dispute would be monitored.

It urged the Government, local authorities and the Fire Brigades Union to draw up a code of conduct for tackling fires during the strike.

Mr George Wright, general secretary, said that the code should define an emergency and generally that should mean a fire where there was danger to life and limb. He said there should be no interference with troops tackling fires.

The 516 troops in Wales who are manning 38 "Green Goddesses" had little work yesterday.

In Gwent most of the part-time firemen decided to work normally, while in Mid-Glamorgan most backed the strike.

"Conscience" shift: In North Wales, three fireman and a sub-officer last night crossed a picket line to begin a 15-hour "conscience" shift inside Rhyll headquarters

Plans to billet troops called off

By Michael Horsnell

A clash between firemen and troops over secret plans to billet Service men at fire stations in parts of Essex was narrowly averted before the strike began yesterday.

The county brigade confirmed that it had originally decided to order troops into fire stations with bedding and food, contrary to Government instructions. But the plan was called off after discussions between angry Fire Brigades Union representatives and fire chiefs.

Last week the Home Office advised chief fire officers throughout the country that no troops should be allowed into fire stations, in order not to exacerbate the dispute.

The county brigade's E division faced the biggest threat of a clash. At the divisional headquarters, Harlow, the 54 firemen were told of the contingency arrangements at 9 pm on Sunday, only 12 hours before the strike was due to start.

Union leaders immediately met Mr Reginald Cox, the divisional officer, and asked him to make other arrangements.

A member of the station's strike committee told me: "We convinced him, I think, that it would be foolhardy to do this because it would create a terrific argument. About an hour afterwards we were told that the plan was being called off."

The 20 Service men involved were eventually billeted at a Territorial Army depot at Old Harlow, near by.

Ten men from The Staffordshire Regiment, who were originally supported to billet at Ongar fire station, found themselves with nowhere to go. A soldier said: "It is a joke. We have been moved around five times, just trying to put down our mattresses."

At midday, three hours after taking over from the 18 regular firemen at Ongar, the soldiers were laying bedding on the interview room floor at the local police station.

At Loughton, the police spent much of the weekend checking the location of fire hydrants. An officer said: "Fire brigade headquarters have all this information on computer and, to get it, all they have to do is press seven buttons, apparently. They would not, or could not, give the information to us because of the dispute."

Mr Roy Barnes, Chief Fire Officer for Essex, said he had received reports that some firemen had been threatened with union disciplinary action unless they agreed to come out on strike. He said: "It was necessary to take steps to reassure men in the brigade that their right to employment with Essex County Council is guaranteed whether they obey calls to strike or decide to work."

Essex Fire Brigade headquarters, at Brentwood, reported an unusually quiet day. Only 13 calls for help had been received throughout the county, of which 12 were false alarms. The one "serious" incident was a fire in a tumbler drier at South Benfleet.

HOME NEWS

Applications to universities for next year tending to favour vocational science and business courses

Sociology shows a decline in popularity

By Our Education Correspondent

Sociology, which enjoyed great popularity among the undergraduates during the late 1960s and early 1970s has passed its peak and its attractiveness is waning. The latest figures for applications for admission to universities next year indicate a fall of 17 per cent in the number of students applying to read sociology, while total applications are up by 7 per cent.

About a third of the expected total number of candidates have applied, the Universities Central Council on Admissions announced yesterday. An analysis of those applications shows that students are tending to turn away from subjects such as sociology, geography, law, architecture, history, and art, applications for all of which are down by more than 8 per cent compared with the same time last year. Instead they are turning to vocationally oriented science and business management courses.

Applications for civil, electrical, mechanical and general engineering courses are all up by more than a fifth, as are also appplications for agriculture and forestry, physics, and business management.

There have been smaller, but substantial (more than 4 per cent) increases in medicine, veterinary studies, biochemistry, mathematics, chemistry and accountancy. Among the arts subjects there have been similar increases in combined social studies, combined social studies and art, and also, somewhat surprisingly in view of the decline in modern languages in schools, in combined languages.

Although Sociology students seem to be often in the news, their total number is small, accounting last year for less than 2 per cent of total undergraduate admissions to universities, or a total of 1,421 students. Last year was the first time for more than a decade that the total number of first-year sociology undergraduates had declined, down from 1,539 in 1975. That trend is confirmed in the latest figures. Between 1969 and 1975 their number rose by almost a half.

Dockers may close a goods depot

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

Unofficial blacking by Southampton dockers threatens a goods distribution centre at Didcot, near Oxford. The complex is in danger of being turned over to warehousing.

The dockers, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, maintain that Didcot might take way their livelihood. As a result of their action the depot has never been successful as an "inland port" and 31 of its 32 acres of open storage space is empty.

A decision on the centre will probably be taken before Christmas. The signs are that it will have to close. If that happens there is bound to be an outcry from railway workers, who saw it as a means to transfer some of the Southampton dock traffic from road to rail.

British Rail has watched with concern the successful blacking by the dockers but has been anxious not to get involved publicly.

The dockers told all forwarding agents at Didcot that they could choose either Didcot or Southampton. But if they chose Didcot "they would not get another container through Southampton docks or any other port" according to a shop stewards' publication in Southampton.

A confidential document considered by the transport subcommittee of the Labour Party national executive said that most goods forwarders did not want to risk defying the dockers.

The blacking was imposed two and a half years ago, when the Didcot centre was opened. Containers from Southampton were to have been transported by rail to Didcot and cleared there by customs.

Employers likely to resist engineers claim

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Shop-floor union leaders in the engineering industry yesterday voted to seek a new skilled rate of £70 a week, longer holidays, and a 35-hour working week. The claim will be put to the Engineering Employers' Federation on December 19.

The decision was taken unanimously by the lay policy making national committee of the dominant engineering section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers in London, and it is likely to be confirmed by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, which has final responsibility for formulating the claim for 1,300,000 workers in the industry.

The £70 target for craftsmen, linked to £55 for unskilled workers, represents a compromise between the left's target of an £80 minimum time rate in the industry and the moderates' argument that the union should seek a "substantial" increase in negotiations with the employers.

The craftsmen's rate is a "calculator" that determines pay in the industry but it is actually paid to only a tiny minority of workers. Average earnings for craftsmen in the middle of this year exceeded £65, and with overtime that figure rises to more than £73.

But a big increase in the minimum rate would increase average earnings through higher overtime pay, bigger bonus earnings, holiday pay, piecework rates and other fringe items.

The employers are therefore likely to oppose such a substantial increase from the present minimum time rate of £42 for craftsmen, which does not take into account the £6 and £4 income policy supplements.

By 27 votes to 24 moderates on the policy-making committee beat off a left-wing challenge to the way Mr Hugh Scanlon, president of the AUEW, cast his union's vote in favour of the 12-month rule at the September TUC conference. The left had argued that it was a violation of an earlier conference decision to reject wage restraint when phase two of the income policy expired.

Proposals designed to draw more closely together the four sections of the AUEW—engineering workers, construction workers, foundry workers, and the white-collar section Tass—were rejected by 28 votes to 23 and final amalgamation of the AUEW now looks more distant than ever. The union's leaders are looking at the 1964 Act governing trade union transfer of engagements to see if there is ground for putting to a ballot of the entire membership a scheme for full amalgamation that has been stalled in the policy-making process for three years.

Tory call to strengthen law on child pornography

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Action must be taken now to strengthen the law so that the use of children for pornographic purposes will suffer heavy penalties in the courts, Mr Whitelaw, deputy leader of the Conservative Party and spokesman on Home Office affairs, said in London last night.

He was putting the party's view in the light of many representations made by the party rank and file and others. The issue was discussed at a recent meeting of the Shadow Cabinet at the Commons, when Mrs Thatcher spoke strongly in favour of immediate legal changes. She recently reviewed the possibility of amending legislation with Mrs Mary Whitehouse, general secretary of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association.

Mr Whitelaw, speaking at a meeting of the South Eastern Conservative Council, said: "I add my voice now to all those who are urging action. The Government must not use as an excuse for delay the argument that they must wait for the Williams committee on obscenity to report."

He called for an amendment to the Obscene Publications Act which would put "pornography that uses children" in a new legal category. This new offence would not be protected by clauses in the Obscene Publications Act that demand proof of a tendency to deprave and corrupt.

The Metropolitan Police had shown how pornography shops could be deterred from holding and selling such material, he said. The Metropolitan Police initiative should be emulated by chief constables in the provinces.

Mr Alan Beith, Liberal Chief Whip and a spokesman on Home Office affairs, said last night that Liberals would support a tightening of the obscenity laws to catch those who use children for pornography.

He said he was sure that some MP who had been lucky in the ballot for private members Bills would adopt Mr Whitelaw's ideas.

Two jailed for plot to aid illegal entrants

From Our Correspondent
Stoke-on-Trent

Two men said by Judge Taylor to have taken part in a fraudulent scheme to obtain insurance cards for illegal immigrants were jailed at Stoke-on-Trent Crown Court yesterday.

The court was told that Soham Singh Nair, aged 37, of Corporation Street, Stafford, and Sarwan Singh, aged 52, of Roebuck Lane, West Bromwich, had forged applications for insurance cards which were sold for substantial amounts to help illegal immigrants to find work.

Both had pleaded not guilty to the charge of conspiracy to forge the applications. They were cleared on a further charge of conspiring to aid illegal immigrants.

Mr Nair was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, but Mr Singh received two years, because, Judge Taylor said, he was the organizer. He also ordered that a six-month suspended sentence imposed on Mr Singh for a similar offence should run consecutively.

Three other men pleaded guilty to similar charges three weeks ago and the judge said: "If I had known as much about this case then as I do now I would have dealt differently with the others. I was too lenient with the first three."

Irishman flown from Dutch jail

Patrick Gallagher, who was said by lawyers to be at the "point of no return" after starving himself in a Dutch prison for a month, was arrested by Irish police as he arrived at Dublin Airport last night. He was charged in connexion with failing to appear in court over his alleged part in a post office robbery.

Mr Gallagher, aged 38, from Dublin, was flown back on an extradition warrant after failing to reverse the decision of a Dutch court ordering him back to the Irish Republic.

Libel damages for ex-diplomat

Mr Zuleik Ayala Cabeda, a former Uruguayan diplomat, accepted a damages award and his costs in the High Court yesterday in settlement of his libel action against Penguin Books.

Mr Philip Agee's book, *Inside the Company—CIA Diary*, published by Penguin, falsely alleged that Mr Cabeda acted as a CIA agent for the United States against the Cuban Government, the court was told.

A quarter of school meals likely to be free

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The Government expects that one child in every four who eat school dinners will soon be claiming free school meals after the introduction yesterday of new income eligibility limits and the launching of a £3,000 government publicity campaign to promote the take-up of that entitlement.

Returns received so far from 60 of the 104 local education authorities in England and Wales to the October, 1977 census on school meals indicate that nearly a fifth, 18 per cent, of all pupils taking meals are receiving them free.

Last year, about 850,000 of the 5,800,000 pupils taking school dinners, one in six, received them free. That represented only about three quarters of the total who were believed to be eligible.

The latest revision of entitlement scales, combined with the new scales which were introduced in August, at the same time as the increase in cost of a school meal from 15p to 25p, should result in an extra 500,000 children claiming free school meals, Miss Jackson, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Education and Science, said yesterday.

The total number of those taking school meals, paid or free, have fallen by about a tenth, or nearly 600,000, compared with last year, preliminary returns from the October census indicate. The number claiming free meals has risen by about 15 per cent compared with last October.

Miss Jackson said the larger proportion of those receiving free meals should "diminish if not remove" the stigma that some felt to be attached to free meals.

She could not say how many more pupils would be eligible for free meals, but department officials thought it might be about a million, making a total of more than two million of the nine million pupils in England and Wales who are now entitled to a free meal, compared with an estimaed 1,130,000 last year.

The new eligibility limits mean that a family with one child will be entitled to a free school meal if its gross income is below about £65; a family with two children should not have an income of more than about £70, and a family with three children not more than about £75.

Those gross income figures are only approximate, as the entitlement is based on the family's income after deduc- ally known by members of the NUJ strike committee. If the NGA returned to work, the newspapers could resume publication in a reduced form.

Secret moves to end strike by journalists

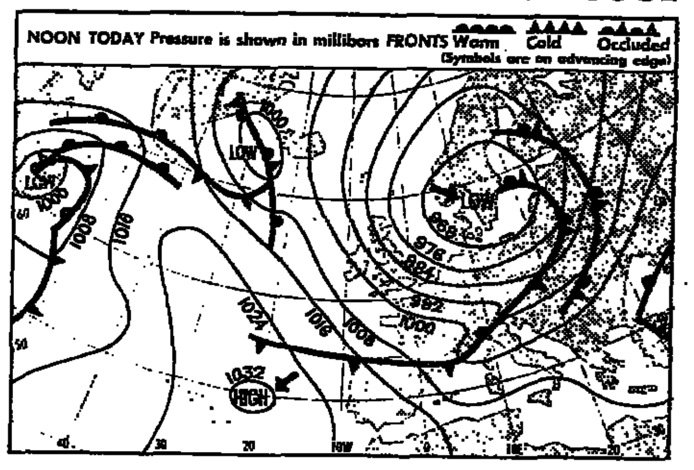
By Our Labour Staff

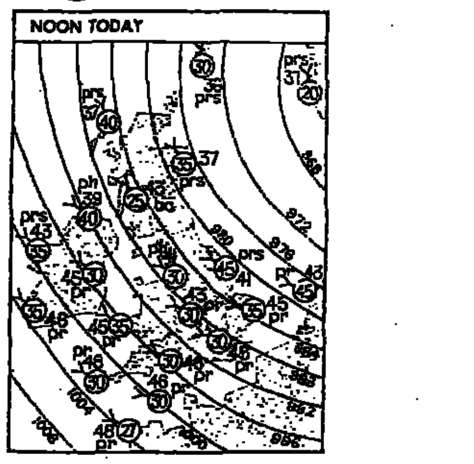
Proposals to end a 21-week closed-shop strike by 100 journalists employed by the Westminster Press at Darlington will be considered at an executive meeting of the National Union of Journalists tomorrow.

They have been drawn up by the National Graphical Association, whose stoppage in sympathy with the journalists has halted the *Northern Echo*, the *Evening Despatch*, the *Darlington and Stockton Times* and the *Durham Advertiser* series.

The NGA made clear that continued support for the journalists will depend on the NUJ's attitude towards the proposals. Details are being kept secret.

Weather forecast and recordings





b—blue sky; bc—half clouded; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; pr—periodical rain with snow.

Today

Sun rises: 7.18 am Sun sets: 4.12 pm
Moon rises: 11.21 am Moon sets: 3.49 pm

First quarter: November 17.
Lighting up: 4.42 pm to 6.50 am.
High water: London Bridge, 4.9 am, 7.4m (24.2ft); 4.35 pm, 7.5m (24.6ft). Avonmouth, 9.48 am, 13.0m (42.8ft); 10.12 pm, 12.5m (41.2ft). Dover, 1.12 am, 6.8m (22.4ft); 1.39 pm, 6.6m (21.8ft). Hull, 8.40 am, 7.4m (24.4ft); 8.53 pm, 7.3m (24.1ft). Liverpool, 1.30 am, 9.3m (30.7ft); 1.54 pm, 9.5m (31.1ft).

A depression will move SE across the North Sea towards Denmark, bringing cold, windy and showery conditions to all parts.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, SE, central S England, East Anglia, Channel Islands: Sunny intervals, showers, blustery and heavy; wind NW, strong to severe gale; max temp 7° to 9°C (45° to 48°F).

Midlands, E, NW, SW England, Wales: Bright or sunny intervals, showers, heavy and blustery, snow on hills, local thunder; wind NW, strong to severe gale; max temp 6° to 7°C (43° to 45°F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, Ireland: Bright intervals, showers, heavy and blustery, snow drifting on some hills, local thunder; wind NW, strong to severe gale; max temp 5°C (41°F).

Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy, showers, heavy and prolonged at times, snow, especially on hills, with drifting, local thunder; wind NW, veering N, severe gale; max temp 4°C (39°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Continuing unsettled and windy with showers, heavy and prolonged, with snow in places; mostly cold, with some frost.

Sea Passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind W, gale to storm; sea high.

St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind W, veering NW, gale, occasionally storm; sea, high.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 13°C (55°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 6°C (43°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 57 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, 0.11in. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 986.5 millibars, rising. 1,000 millibars=29.53in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Akrotiri	s	21	70	Cologne	c	9	48	Lisbon	f	16	61	Oslo	c	3	37
Algiers	c	18	64	Copenhagen	r	4	39	Locarno	c	10	50	Paris	c	13	55
Amsterdam	c	11	52	Dublin gale	c	9	48	London	c	15	59	Reykjavik	c	[illegible]	[illegible]
Athens	c	19	66	Edinburgh	c	6	43	Luxemburg	f	5	41	Rome	s	18	64
Barcelona	s	15	59	Florence	f	16	61	Madrid	s	15	59	Ronaldsway	c	9	48
Beirut	s	21	70	Funchal	s	22	72	Majorca	f	19	66	Stockholm	f	5	41
Belfast	r	7	45	Geneva	sn	1	34	Malaga	s	22	72	Venice	s	13	55
Berlin	r	7	45	Gibraltar	s	20	68	Malta	c	18	64	Vienna	s	3	38
Biarritz	c	14	57	Guernsey	c	12	54	Manchester	f	10	50	Warsaw	f	6	43
Birmingham	c	11	52	Helsinki	c	5	41	Moscow	c	4	39	Zurich	sn	2	36
Bristol	c	12	54	Innsbruck	c	3	37	Munich	c	4	39				
Brussels	c	12	54	Istanbul	s	18	64	Naples	f	15	59				
Budapest	c	12	54	Jersey	c	14	57	New York	s	[illegible]	[illegible]				
Cardiff	c	12	54	L Palmas	f	23	73	Nice	f	17	63				

Overseas selling prices
[illegible]

[illegible]

HOME NEWS

Code urges council sympathy for homeless

Local authorities are being urged by the Departent of the Environment to adopt a more sympathetic and practical approach to homeless people. A "code of guidance" on the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act, which comes into force on December 1, says authorities should try to secure satisfactory accommodation for those in genuine need and should not automatically serve notices to quit on tenants in arrears with their rent.

The Act is the first leglisation specifically designed for homeless people. Councils will be under an obligation to provide homes for priority cases which will include, among others, the mentally ill, one-parent families and pregnant women.

The code urges authorities wherever possible to take early action to prevent homelessness.

It suggests ways of securing accommodation for those in need, including short-term leases on empty houses and, as a last resort, use of guest houses and hotels. Cases of rent arrears should not attract as a routine penalty the issue of a notice to quit, it says.

Such cases are open to a variety of approaches, including postponement of payment to give tenants a chance to put their finances in order.

The code emphasizes the need for cooperation between housing authorities and social and voluntary services.

Once a home is found it is stated contact should be maintained with tenants to prevent their becoming homeless again.

Mr Armstrong, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, said yesterday: "While the Act is very much a pioneering step, its implementation will, to a large extent, be built upon the sound experience of the past".

The Association of District Councils said that although the code contained sensible advice, such detailed guidance was unnecessary. "Difficult decisions, especially in the case of the intentionally homeless, will have to be taken by authorities on individual cases in the light of particular circumstances."

Housing campaign: A further stage in the Government's campaign to persuade local authorities to diversify their housing programmes is marked by the publication today of a new study by the housing development directorate of the Department of the Environment (our Planning Reporter writes).

The study gives guidance to councils on provision of dwellings for small households, as opposed to conventional family flats. According to the department, more than half of British households consist of only one or two people.

Providing more accommodation for single people, one-parent families, newly married couples and elderly people, it is hoped, will release more accommodation for larger families.

Housing Development Note VI: House Shells part 2 (Department of the Environment, Room 1107, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7ER; 65p plus postage).

Soldier murder charge

Bombardier Sean Andrew Conboy, aged 21, of the Royal Artillery, was remanded in custody for a week at Belfast Magistrates' Court yesterday, charged with murdering Lance-Corporal Barry Hilton, aged 25, at the weekend.

Marxists in higher education, 2: Dramatic examples from polytechnics

Some sociology courses being blamed for students' indoctrination

By Ian Bradley

Polytechnics provide some of the most dramatic examples of Marxist influence in higher education. The Gould report quotes an advertisement for the sociology course at Middlesex Polytechnic that promises students: "You would study a number of themes, including the philosophical and historical background to Marxism and sociology, the roots of racism and sexism, revolutionary movements and the dynamics of domination in industrial societies and the third world".

Mr Terence Miller, Director of North London Polytechnic, has recently called in the examination papers for the BSc degree in sociology to see whether they show signs of over Marxist indoctrination in the teaching.

Like universities, polytechnics underwent rapid expansion in the 1960s, which was particularly concentrated in the social sciences. In 1960 no polytechnics were teaching sociology; now there are 30. Middlesex Polytechnic alone has a sociology department of 65.

Dr A. H. Halsey, of Nuffield College, Oxford, says: "The gold rush of the sixties did allow for easy prospecting for all kinds of 'isms', and certainly several varieties of Marxism were borne in on this wave of expansion."

Mrs Caroline Cox, former head of the sociology department at North London Polytechnic, feels that polytechnics are more vulnerable to left-wing infiltration than universities. She says: "They are struggling to establish themselves academically. Both intellectually and structurally, universities have got more back-up and resilience. At polytechnics the students are far more isolated. It is quite possible for someone doing social sciences never to come across anyone reading another subject."

Mr Miller thinks that serious Marxist activity is confined to North London Polytechnic, North East London Polytechnic and Middlesex Polytechnic. Significantly, those three institutions concentrate particularly on social sciences.

The situation at North London Polytechnic is well known through reports in the press. Certainly it is not a typical institution. None the less, many of its staff fear that what is going on there, which was serious enough to have made three of them write a book on it (*The Rape of Reason*) and later join Professor Julius Gould's study group, could happen in other polytechnics.

Mr Miller says: "It is the atmosphere here more than anything else that is worrying: the tone of conversations, the attitude of people as they pass in the corridor, the slamming of doors and the turning of backs. The whole air has a definite texture to it. The whole atmosphere of Marxism and its associated paraphernalia of women's liberation, anti-abortion, Chile and Northern Ireland impregnates everyone, just like coal dust gets into a miner's skin."

Mr Miller thinks that no more than a tenth of the staff at North London Polytechnic are on the far left, although Mrs Cox says that the proportion in the sociology department is as high as 66 per cent.

Mr Miller feels that by using tactics of bullying and intimidation, however, they are able to exert an influence out of all proportion to their size.

"They are positively bent on upsetting and destroying the state. My objection is to people who use their privileged position as teachers to preach this doctrine. It is morally wrong. Their disaffection infects the whole body", he says.

Mrs Cox refers to girl students called "bourgeois bags" in seminars by lecturers who had come in tears to the women's cloakroom as the only place where they could safely discuss with her their intimidation by left-wing teachers.

She says that a young member of staff came out of a departmental meeting shaking like a leaf after being subjected to intense pressure to falsify her marks in order to pass left-wing students in an examination that they had clearly failed on academic grounds. The head of the department concerned, she says, openly admitted that he was not interested in academic standards.

Dr John Marks, a lecturer in physics at North London Polytechnic, is convinced that the disruption that has occurred there over the past few years is a result of a carefully organized campaign by students and staff in the Communist Party. He quotes the remarks of students at a sociology seminar that they had come to the polytechnic "to create a Marxist cell" and that they wanted to be taught Marxism only because they had "come to learn the gospel in order to go out and propagate it".

He says many lecturers have actively supported student disruption and consistently thwarted attempts by himself and others to draw up an agreed code of conduct.

Mrs Cox says she was never allowed to give more than two lectures on the sociology of religion in a three-year sociology course. She suspects that it was because of her own position as a Christian. Yet a fellow lecturer, she says, was warmly received when he suggested that religion should figure in a course on deviance.

Mrs Cox, who is now director of the Nursing Education Research Unit at Chelsea College, is particularly worried by the effects of Marxist influence on the teaching of vocational subjects such as medicine, social work and education. She quotes cases of social workers who refuse to accept that people are suffering from schizophrenia or depression because they have been taught that mental illness does not exist as such and is simply a product of the capitalist system.

Her view is shared by Mr Ronald Lewis, chief probation officer for Kent. He says: "We have had a lot of people coming into the probation service in the past few years who, one is fairly certain, have been indoctrinated in polytechnics particularly into thinking that all crime is caused by economics and that all judges are bent. Their social work education has basically been a political education."

At a conference last year Mr Lewis quoted a professor of social administration who advised his students to divert thieves from corner shops to Marks and Spencer, "who could well afford the loss".

Mr Brian Munday, a lecturer in social work at the Kent University, thinks the influence of Marxists on social work training has diminished in the past five years. He says: "It is in good times that people feel free to take a critical stance. In bad times like now people get their heads down and concentrate on finding jobs.

"More social work courses are now being taken by people who have had experience in the field, which tends to make them less susceptible to the excesses of the left. There are certainly people training social workers from a Marxist standpoint, but they are heavily outnumbered."

Education and teacher training is another area where there is concern about the effects of Marxist influence. Mrs Cox quotes a typical reading list from a polytechnic course on the sociology of education. The four main suggested books are all heavily Marxist in tone: *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, *Cultural Action for Freedom*, *Schooling and Capitalism*, and *Schooling in Capitalist America*, which advocates training students and pupils in the use of violence.

Professor David Martin of the London School of Economics says: "Within the whole education system there is a steady drip of indoctrination. It moves from universities and polytechnics to teacher training colleges and so through to schools and children. Its message is that society is a sham and that everything worth while is middle-class bilge. If you create that feeling in society, you unnerve people and allow dogma to triumph."

Tomorrow: Non-formal institutions and the media.

£50 fine for throwing eggs at the Queen's car

Bernard Morgan, aged 42, who was said to have thrown eggs at the royal car at the Festival of Remembrance, meant no disrespect to the Queen but was seeking publicity in a campaign to prove his son's innocence, it was stated at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, Westminster, yesterday.

"In fact, he is a very strong supporter of the monarchy", Mr Adam Griffiths, for the defence, told Mr Kenneth Harington, the magistrate, who remarked: "Well, this was a very odd way of showing it."

Mr Morgan, unemployed, of Westfield's Old Town, Wadsworth, Halifax, West Yorkshire was fined £50 and bound over for a year after he had admitted using threatening behaviour and damaging police uniforms.

Chief Inspector John Purnell said Mr Morgan threw three eggs at the Queen's Rolls-Royce as it arrived at the royal entrance of the Albert Hall on Saturday.

The first egg hit a constable, the second the car's nearside window, the third "hit me in the face, running down my side and all over my uniform".

Angry members of the crowd gathered round Mr Morgan and two of them held him. The police found three more eggs on him.

Mr Purnell said Mr Morgan's son, Bernard, was sentenced to detention four years ago. "He thinks he was wrongly convicted and has been trying to draw attention to this", he added.

Mr Purnell added that Mr Morgan's wife and children had also been convicted of offences involving egg-throwing on other occasions in the past. His daughter and one son had been arrested on Sunday in Halifax for throwing eggs during a remembrance ceremony.

Because of the circumstances of their campaign and the publicity the family had suffered in their community.

Women lose fight to save their church

St Erkenwald's Church, Southend, Essex, said by Sir John Betjeman to "stand out like a great battleship above the town", is to be made redundant, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council decided yesterday.

Three worshippers at the church, which was completed in 1910, Miss Olive Rippingal, of Rochford Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea; Mrs Doris Medcalf, of Kilworth Avenue; and Mrs Jessie Payne, of Cheltenham Road, both Southend, had petitioned against a decision to declare St Erkenwald's redundant

Miss Rippingal told the committee that the decision was against the opinion of the Council of Places of Worship that there was no church in the diocese comparable with St Erkenwald's and every effort should be made to preserve it.

The Council for the Care of Churches had said: "Internally the building is quite breathtaking. It is not only the finest of the Southend churches . . . but probably the finest of its period in Essex."

The council had also said that to demolish "this magnificent group of buildings, in near perfect condition", was economic nonsense.

Mrs Payne said local redevelopment would mean that St Erkenwald's could look forward to an increasing congregation. The reasons for the proposed redundancy were that the use was small, there was no heating and the other churches were well able to absorb the St Erkenwald's worshippers.

Lord Dilhorne, sitting with Lord Justice Edmund-Davies and Lord Scarman, said that all the points in the petition had been considered.

Gunmen snatch £7,000

Two men armed with a shotgun snatched a bag containing about £7,000 from security guards at the National Westminster bank at Peckham Rye, London, yesterday.

Lord Lucan's creditors to get 7½p in £ more

Creditors of Lord Lucan are to get £4,400 on December 12, a dividend of 7½p in the pound. The money is mainly from an auction of possessions formerly belonging to the missing peer, who is wanted for the murder of his children's nursemaid. With the latest payout creditors in Lord Lucan's bankruptcy will have received a total of 92½p in the pound.

"I am still confident that they will get paid in full, but I do not yet know when", Mr Dennis Gilson, the accountant appointed by the creditors as the trustee in bankruptcy, said.

The main assets yet to be realized are funds in a Swiss bank account, and a $15,000 legacy from Lord Lucan's godmother, Marcia Brady Tucker, of New York. Mr Gilson said: "She was evidently very close to the Lucan family, and during the war acted almost as a mother to Lord Lucan."

Lawyers in New York are contesting Mr Gilson's claim to the legacy. Under New York State law, if a legatee is declared bankrupt within six months of the death of the testator the money need not be paid.

"This does not apply in England", Mr Gilson said. "I am claiming that our law is supreme in this matter."

So far, Lord Lucan's assets have realized £103,800, but because his possessions were both in Britain and abroad, expenses have been heavy.

Bingo hall staff to 'face charges'

Twelve members of the staff and management were arrested on warrants in a raid last Friday at the Scala bingo hall at Farnborough, Hampshire.

Chief Superintendent James Reed, of Aldershot police, said all 12 had been released, but inquiries were continuing. Charges would be preferred against some.

Hospital case adjourned to await TV film

From Our Correspondent
Edinburgh

The trial of an Edinburgh nurse alleged to have endangered the life of a girl of 13 by cutting off her air supply as she lay in an intensive care ward was stopped at Edinburgh Sheriff Court yesterday after a suggestion that a television programme might have prejudiced her defence.

Mrs Margaret Atkins, aged 35, of Edinburgh, was due to stand trial on two charges alleging that she twice assaulted Elizabeth Semple, now dead, formerly of Shade Park Gardens, by occluding her air supply on February 14 and 15 to the danger of her life.

It is alleged that she placed her hand over a tube maintaining the girl's airway on February 14, and placed a pad over another tube maintaining the airway on February 15.

Mr Donald Robertson, QC, for Mrs Atkins's defence called for an adjournment to the trial before a jury was sworn in so that the film of the programme, *Weekend World*, and its script could be seen by the sheriff, the deputy fiscal, for the Crown, and by himself.

The case was adjourned until December 14.

Home head said to have assaulted girls

Harry Bunker, aged 59, a magistrate, pleaded not guilty at Winchester Crown Court yesterday to indecently assaulting five girls while he was superintendent at Ashdene children's home, in Southampton.

Mr David Calcutt, QC, for the prosecution, said the alleged offences took place between 1971 and 1976. It was the custom of the home that every morning each girl would kiss Mr Bunker.

"But when these girls reached the age where they began to develop sexually", he added, "you will hear from some of them that this man began to pay close attention to their developing breasts, touching and sometimes rather more than touching over, inside and beneath their clothing."

That was not the limit of Mr Bunker's interest. He would take the girls into a large toy and sweet cupboard, where "activities of a very much more intimate nature occurred." He added that Mr Bunker touched the girls' vaginas and sometimes got the girls to masturbate him.

The woman who reported the girl's allegations was dismissed a week later.

The trial continues today.

S Yorkshire seeks £8m to improve canal

Regional report

Ronald Kershaw
Sheffield

South Yorkshire County Council is to mount an impressive publicity campaign this month in the hope that public enthusiasm will sway the Government towards its view that nearly £8m should be spent on the improvement of 35 kilometres of the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation, a canal that links the industrial heart of South Yorkshire with the Humber ports and therefore with Scandinavia and Europe.

With it in the enterprise is the British Waterways Board, who is confident that not only would the improvement establish the commercial viability of the canal but that it would also have far-reaching economic and environmental advantages for the county.

The plan is simple. It involves the lengthening, improvement or reconstruction of 10 locks, the realignment of navigation channels at four points, the straightening of a few kinks in the waterway and the constuction of a swing bay. The cost is trivial compared with the expense of half a dozen miles of motorway or the reconstruction of a few bridges.

The county council and the waterways board argue that in any case the Government is committed to spending something like £2,500,000 just to maintain the canal in its present state. If the canal were to be downgraded to a cruising waterway only it would still cost £1,300,000. It cannot be closed and filled in because it consists partly of a natural river.

The £7.8m cost of bringing it to the standard demanded by the county council includes the amounts the Government is committed to spending already just to maintain or downgrade the canal. The maximum additional money required therefore is only about £6m.

The county council has submitted the improvement scheme to the EEC, which has made encouraging noises indicating that 30 per cent of the investment required might well come from the European Regional Development Fund.

The only stumbling block remaining appears to be the British Government's reluctance to part with money when cuts in public spending are the order of the day. The county council is a little annoyed at the Government's treatment of the proposal in terms of projected returns.

A financial appraisal using discounted cash flow techniques gives a rate of return of between 10 and 11 per cent That is geater than the return required by the Government for other transport infrastructure investment. Despite that the Government is demanding a 15 per cent return, which neither the county council nor the waterways board can guarantee.

The difficulty is that the canal is a commercial waterway carrying more than 400,000 tonnes annually and although barges of up to 500 tonnes can travel as far as Doncaster from the Humber estuary, only those up to 90 tonnes can reach Rotherham. The improvement scheme would permit the larger capacity barges to use the whole length of the canal. It is argued that not only would that increase competitiveness with other modes of transport, but it would also attract new canal-based industries, thus widening the industrial base of South Yorkshire, creating new jobs where they are sorely needed and improving the environment.

It is suggested that an improved canal would carry away colliery spoil to the Humber estuary, possibly to be used in land reclamation, and thus improve great tracts of land that might harbour pit heaps in the hinterland. The improvement scheme and the operation of the canal would provide 700 jobs over the next 20 years.

It is true that the shipment of coal accounts for three-quarters of canal traffic at present, but the county council and the waterways board are convinced that industries relying on the bulk movement of products, for instance, heavy, awkward machinery, wood pulp, aggregates, oil and the like, would be attacted to South Yorkshire. Those industries relying on bulk imports from Europe and bulk exports to Europe would have every facility required if only the canal could take the size of barge that makes economic sense.

They are sure that the relatively low transport costs would increase demand for goods, which would in turn stimulate employment. Other areas of the Yorkshire and Humberside region might well benefit because the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation would link South Yorkshire not only to the Humber, but also to other areas served by Trent Navigation, Calder Navigation and the Selby Canal, including places such as Nottingham, Leeds, Scunthorpe, Goole, Grimsby and Hull.

It is visualized that BACAT ((Barge aboard catamaran) services would give cheap, safe access to and from EEC partners in Europe and Scandinavia.

From the middle of this month the canal campaign will be directed at MPs and public alike. Exhibitions will be staged in London and the North pointing out the advantages of the scheme. Car stickers, literature and press advertising will be widespread and at the end of the month a massive lobby of Westminster will be held in an attempt to drive home the advantages of the improvement scheme.

HOME NEWS

Labour rebels aim to wreck devolution Bills in guillotine vote

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Labour opponents of devolution for Scotland and Wales last night kept up their psychological warfare against the Government, and reasserted their confidence that the Bills can bet wrecked in the key "guillotine" votes tomorrow.

Last night's votes on second reading were seen by the rebels as opening skirmishes; only tomorrow, they said, would the full impact be seen of Labour opposition or abstention, with Tory opposition, and the smattering of minor parties opposing.

It was learnt that the Tories, scenting blood, are bringing back all their MPs from the European Assembly at Strasbourg. *There is apparently to* be no "pairing" of the sick.

Mr Enoch Powell, MP for Down, South, confirmed yesterday that all six Ulster Unionists would vote against the Government on both Bills and on the guillotine. Their opposition would be maintained for as long as Ulster remained without its own devolved administration.

The Government would not be brought down, of course, unless Mr Callaghan chooses to make the vote an issue of confidence. Loss of both the Wales and Scotland Bills, which is *what would inevitably follow* the loss of guillotine motions, would, however, be the next worse thing to loss of confidence.

The Government whips are said to remain confident. All *Labour MPs have been privately* warned of the seriousness of tearing a hole in the legislative programme.

Mr Steel, the Liberal leader, has indicated that the Liberal pact with Labour might col*lapse if the devolution Bills* were lost. The absence of a formal vote of no confidence should not lead Labour's rebels "*to imagine that the Govern*ment could continue in office" if it failed to get the Bills, he stated.

Mr Colin Phipps, Labour MP for Dudley, West, and unofficial whip for the Labour rebels, was hoping for 20 Labour votes against, and perhaps 10 abstentions. He said he needed "a net vote of 25" to halt the Bills at guillotine and "we are pulling out all the stops" for Wednesday.

Parliamentary report, page 10
When energy runs out, page 21

Communists deplore Soviet lack of parties

By Annabel Ferriman

The Soviet Union was criticized for its lack of political parties at the Communist Party's national congress in London yesterday.

Mr Geoffrey Roberts, delegate for the south-east Lewisham branch, London, said the Stalinist era illustrated clearly the need for a plurality of parties. Today the Soviet Union had 10,000 prisoners of conscience.

Although the German Democratic Republic was said to have five or six political parties, they were all dominated by the Communist Party and could not be described as independent.

*The 400 delegates were de*bating whether a socialist state should tolerate all democratic political parties, "including those *hostile to socialism*", as suggested in the new draft of the party's programme, *The British Road to Socialism.*

The document, criticized by some members as "reformist" and "social democratic", suffered only one change at the hands of delegates. It will be voted on today, the last day of the congress.

An amendment to change the proposed policy of tolerating all democratic parties, including those opposed to socialism, *was put forward by 15 districts.* It was lost by more than 300 votes to 66.

Mr John Hoffman, East Midlands district, proposing the amendment, said that to insist on such a policy as party strategy would be "to go into battle with our hands tied behind us". Events in Chile clearly showed its dangers.

Democracy was the process that opened up the road to socialism. To speak of democratic parties hostile to socialism was a contradiction in terms.

Mr Francis Neerman, Essex University branch, East Anglia, *complained that the policy* would mean tolerating even the National Front. Non-socialist countries would help the hos*tile political parties to bring* down a socialist government.

Only parties willing to work within the socialist constitution *should be tolerated, he said.* Revolution was meant to be an irrevocable step, and the party should ensure that it was.

Mr Alan Baker, Wales district, opposing the amendment, said they could not expect a large section of the population to vote them into power if they were then to have all means of expressing their opinions cut off.

Fraternal greetings were conveyed to the conference by delegates from Chile, Cyprus, Israel and Palestine.

Declarations were passed condemning the "barbarous bombing carried out by the Israeli war planes" last week, and supporting the firemen's "justified demand" for an increase of 30 per cent basic.

Nationalists have four aims for agriculture

From Our Own Correspondent
Edinburgh

The Scottish National Party yesterday proposes a ministry of farming and forestry for Scotland and an agriculture finance *bank to help to bring* underused land into good heart.

At a press conference in Edinburgh to launch the party's agricultural policy it was stated that bringing farming and forestry under one ministry to develop integrated land use might end the era of competition and hostility that the present arrangements sometimes produced.

The policy document suggests that to increase output policies on land ownership and tenure should be slanted towards the concept of the family farm, which is deeply rooted in Scottish tradition and has been proved the most productive unit in agriculture and the most socially beneficial.

A five-year production rolling programme should be underwritten by the Government to secure long-term stable prices for both farmer and consumer; that would provide the farmer with the security ot increase production.

A deficiency payment scheme *and production grants for* cattle and sheep-rearing are also proposed.

The policy has four aims: to make *Scotland largely self-suf*ficient in the foodstuffs it can produce; to restore the land to its position as Scotland's primary productive resource; to build up an exportable surplus; and to ensure a secure future for those working in the industry.

Mr Andrew Welsh, MP for Angus, South, and SNP parliamentary spokesman on agriculture, said agriculture already employs more people in Scotland than any other industry. Its efficiency was almost second to none in Europe, but it required a secure political framework in which to operate with clear, long-term goals for production.

Bournemouth contenders

Nominations closed yesterday for the by-election at Bournemouth, East, on November 24 caused by the resignation of Mr John Cordle over the Poulson affair. The six candidates are: D. A. Atkinson (Con); W. G. Boaks (Dem Monarchist, Public Safety, White Resident); J. B. N. Goodwin (Lab); K. McKilliam (Nat Front); D. Matthew (L); J. P. Pratt (New Britain).
The figures at the last general election were: J. H. Cordle (C) 20,790; G. H. *Musgrave* (L) 10,129; D. E. Lock (Lab) 8,422; M. Hayes (Nat Front) 828. C maj: 10,661.

CBI CONFERENCE/BRIGHTON

Employers want pay reform talks with TUC and Government but big minority dissents

Mr John Methven: 1980 target for new pay system.

The Confederation of British Industry resolved yesterday at the opening day of its conference at Brighton to seek immediate talks with the Government and the TUC to undertake a sweeping reform of the method and timing of pay negotiations.

But the resolution was passed by a two-to-one majority, only after a barrage of calls for its rejection.

The CBI hopes to have a new system in place by early 1980, with fewer negotiating groups achieving synchronized settlements that fall due together in a short pay round. Settlements would be based on an annual *analysis by Government, unions* and employers of what the nation can afford; the structure and timing of the Budget would be tailored to fit in with the overall plan.

Mr John Methven, CBI director general, opening the pay debate, said: "What is decided here, if it leads to action, could transform the prospects of this nation. It could transform us from a negative, inward-looking nation into a *prosperous, dynamic country* second to none."

To see the defects of today's wages system one had only to look at *the present pay round.* "Is this, by any stretch of the imagination, a sane or a sensible way to run our affairs? With power cuts? With a firemen's *strike*?

"With half our home car market captured by European and Japanese car makers simply because we cannot produce? With the strike figures soaring, and everyone wondering whether the miners will be bought off, or will once more confront a govern*ment and possibly bring it* down?"

It would take great determination from the Government, a massive effort from all employers, and far more moderation from unions if the Government's 10 per cent target was *to remain realistic.*

Mr Methven commended the *CBI conference document*, which envisaged agreement with the TUC on the broader direction of change by early next year, to be reinforced by the spring Budget to influence pay bargaining from next August. During 1979 there would be talks between unions, employers and the Government on how much of the national economic cake should go to wages; firms would start changing their *settlement dates so that a short* pay round could take place in the first three months of 1980.

Mr Methven said there must be wider understanding of the facts of economic life. "We do not want to create platforms on which ever-increasing pay settlements may be built. That is the dark *and dangerous side of our current* pay situation."

There was good reason, however, for believing that "a great many people in this country long for common sense and reason". The Government, to adopt sensible tax policies, had to keep down the level of public spending and *control monetary growth*. Managers and employers would have to act in a more united and determined way to redress the balance of power away from the trade unions.

Mr George Cattell, director-general, National Farmers Union, opposing the resolution, said it was advocating yet another form of income policy.

It was suggesting that the power of organized labour to influence pay claims was *irresistible*. "We must refute that argument. There is growing evidence that the whole country is refuting it. Our *policies must not be based on* fear—fear that organized labour can neutralize good management."

Mr David Rose, British Rail Board, said there had been deliberate evasion of phase two, yet the whole nation congratulated itself on the success of the policies. He appealed for "a restoration of sound standards in these matters".

Mr Peter Edwards, of the CBI's Yorkshire and Humberside regional council, proposed a return to free collective bargaining within industry. He said it could be *achieved without a high* rate of inflation only by the establishment of a more equal balance of bargaining power between *employer* and employee.

The basic reason why Britain's industrial performance was so poor was that they were trying to run an industrial economy *against intense international com*petition under national rules, conditions and *procedures* that were more than a century out of date.

Mr John Porter, director of the Engineering Employers Federation, said that although he sympathized with the plan's critics, the present system had contributed "to our notorious inability to achieve high growth, high productivity, high real earnings or even high employment. We cannot afford inaction."

Summing up in favour of the CBI plan, Mr Alex Jarratt, chairman of Reed International, said it was "not sufficient for us to express concern about inflationary pay claims and inflationary settlements if we do not seek to change *the system* which creates it".

Who would invest in more plant and machinery, he asked, when the cost of running it was increasing by overmanning and restrictive practices that were by-products of the system of pay determination?

"We say we want more jobs, but where is the incentive to in*crease employment when the price* of that employment is determined by the vagaries of trade union practice?"

Employers did not have a free hand. They had obligations to government, to public opinion or to a sense of their own responsi*bilities*. Trade unions had no such sense of obligation. They could break individual firms and the long-term employment prospects of their members, but they did not break themselves.

Lord Watkinson, CBI president, told the conference before the vote was taken that the subject was simply a discussion document that could be changed. The question was whether it should form the basis of talks with the Government and the TUC or whether the CBI should go back and start again.

Earlier, Mr Methven, in his opening address to the conference, deplored "the actions of certain groups of workers who sometimes in defiance of their national trade union leaders attempt to hold the rest of this nation to ransom in the pursuit of their own selfish in*terests*".

Without mentioning any groups by name, he said: "Day after day we are being subjected to disruptive industrial action of a magnitude and seriousness of which a sophisticated society like ours should be ashamed. But this threat must be met.

"*All of us have to resist*, as so many employers are now resisting fiercely, and at the cost of a dramatic increase in the past three months in strikes and industrial disputes, totally unreasonable wage demands.

"Many of our members have had to cancel during the past few days coming to our conference because they are doing just this. But at least we know that in putting up *this fight* for moderation we have the overwhelming support not only of the public but of millions of decent and responsible working people who now believe as strongly as we do in the need to conquer inflation."

Big tax cuts urged to reverse 'flight of talent'

The "flight of talent" from Britain because of penal rates of taxation was emphasized by a number of speakers when the conference debated a resolution calling for big tax cuts as recommen*ded in the CBI policy document, Britain means Business.*

The resolution, which was carried unanimously, also called for the establishment of a stable business climate to provide management with the incentives and confidence to lead the way through greater efficiency and productivity *to increased profitability* and investment.

The policy document says the CBI's aim is to reduce total tax*ation by 5 per cent of gross* domestic product over five years, equivalent to £6,000m at 1976-77 figures and permitting a cut of 30 per cent in the amount taken in income tax. It suggests that it would permit a cut in the top marginal rate of tax on earned income to 60 per cent by 1979-80, corresponding reductions in the other higher tax rates, a cut in the basic rate to 28 per cent, reduction of the investment income surcharge and of taxes on capital.

Sir Adrian Cadbury, chairman of Cadbury Schweppes Ltd, moving the resolution, said the proposals "would give us rough comparability with our EEC competitors; so we are asking for parity, not privilege".

Absurd marginal rates of tax discouraged taking on responsibility and hard work and encouraged cash-earning occupations on the side. The same was true of our system of controls.

Price controls subsidized consumption now at the expense of *investment for the future.* Dividend controls immobilized the resources available for investment during a period of rapid technical and economic change.

"Tax and controls have combined to reduce the contribution to employment and to the country's wealth from small businesses *to levels well below those of the* United States, Germany and France. The highest capital and personal taxes in Europe have prevented new small businesses from being formed and stunted the growth of existing ones.

The immediate problem in British industry was not lack of investment *but the poor use made of* it. Management must remedy overmanning.

"A determined drive on improving efficiency could add to industrial unemployment in the short run, but the lesson of history is that increases in productivity and employment have gone *hand in hand.*"

Mr Peter Bailey, of U.T.U. Pack (Holdings) Ltd, introduced a resolution urging the Government to reduce the highest rate of taxation on both earned and unearned income to a maximum of 50 per cent. He said the present tax rates damaged the economy and caused a flight from the country of people with talent: doctors, dentists, engineers, craftsmen and those with vital industrial skills.

Sir John Langham, of Stone Platts Industries and chairman of the *CBI production committee*, introduced another resolution urging industry to take the lead in a drive for greater efficiency and competitiveness, in particular by tackling overmanning.

He said productivity was often just as bad in offices and in management as on the shop floor. Too many were producing too little. Most other difficulties would automatically fade away if productivity could be improved.

The status and rewards of those on the shop floor who produced the real wealth must be improved at the expense of those who did nothing but largely consume the results of their efforts.

Mr Alfred Gooding, chairman of A. J. Gooding Group told the conference: "I wonder how many of you realize what the top rates of taxation mean to me. They mean £15 to buy a pint of beer, £250 for my wife to have her hair done; and you are looking at £10,000 worth of gear I am wearing."

Mr Michael Edwardes, of British Leyland, supporting the reduction of the top rate of tax to 50 per cent, said the penal rates were crippling the country. It was ridiculous that Britain's talent was being driven overseas. "These people are still leaving in their thousands, not because there is more challenge overseas but because of the lack of after-tax reward in this country."

Mr David Davis, finance director of Garton, Sons and Co, said Britain might be approaching a "major crisis of capitalism". He said: "It is not the monopoly power of capital causing the decline but the monopoly power of some of the unions. It is not oppression by the bosses we are *witnessing but oppression by the* bureaucracies. It is excessive state spending, excessive legislation and, above all, excessive taxation, that are killing our industries."

The next downturn would be worse than the last and more businesses would go over the financial *brink, many straight into the arms* of the National Enterprise Board. "It is the CBI's primary duty to ensure that this situation never comes to pass."

Mr Zach Brierley, chairman of Z. Brierley Ltd, summing up the debate, said there was controversy over whether the top rates of taxation should be cut to 60 per cent or 50 per cent. He believed that anything over 50 per cent began to move into the realms of confiscation.

He promised that those resolutions seeking to amend the main motion would be put to the CBI council for careful consideration.

Scottish views on devolution, 1: Doubts about Bill

SNP would like to force election

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

From the *south it may seem* that devolution has joined the misty hills, the pipes and thrift as part of the popular Scottish identity.

If so, familiarity with the grave constitutional issue has not bred confidence that the Government's latest proposals will succeed when they are laid before Parliament, peremptorily guillotined and set to a referendum.

Seasoned observers of the Scottish political mood when asked to predict the outcome are apt to hedge their guess or decline to make one. Both sides of the argument share deep uncertainty.

The line-up in Scotland is much the same, most Labour MPs for and Conservative MPs against the Bill, with a significant number from each camp disagreeing with their party's line. The Scottish National Party will support the Bill in an almost disinterested way. What it seeks is independence, but it accepts that a Scottish Assembly may be a useful stepping stone towards that end.

The Liberals favour stronger powers for the assembly but *will support the Government* this time, although detractors are expected south of the border.

*The Prime Minister's appar*ent reluctance to make the failure of the two Bills a matter for a general election has made the position of some Scottish MPs uncertain.

There are some Labour members who will reluctantly support the Bill and the guillotine motion and then campaign all the more strongly against the Bill at the *referendum*. Several doubt that Mr Callaghan will make an issue that directly affects only a minority of the *kingdom one of confidence.*

Among the Tories the strong pro-devolution lobby, already driven to resignations over shifts in policy, may well resist a three-line whip. The party in Scotland remains seriously divided, with leading Tories proposing a federal system for the entire United Kingdom and Mr Edward Taylor, the opposi*tion spokesman for* Scottish affairs, yielding only to the notion of an assembly of Scottish MPs meeting in Edinburgh.

Mrs Thatcher has strong doubts about the need for the assemblies in Scotland and Wales, but more important is her central political aim of *harrying and bringing down* the Government. The SNP might be tempted into opposing the two Bills if it thought there was a serious *possibility* of triggering a general election.

If devolution becomes an issue of confidence—and there is no suggestion that the Liberals will make that a condition of their pact with the Government—there is less fear now of a general election among Labour MPs in Scotland. The party organization has perked up and the Government's recent performance on the industrial front has improved morale.

Moribund branches in the industrial west are said to be stirring to a more *confident* air, but the keenest anxiety remains for the young and the new town voters. The trend among them continues towards the SNP. Families who move away from the old tenements to the new towns around the edge of Glasgow often change their politics with their address, and it is the SNP who usually gains.

Labour Party workers feel that *the Prime Minister's* recent visit marked a turning point and say that in the most recent local by-elections the *Labour Party had* either held the seat, often with a sharply reduced majority, or held the Labour vote. The annihilations of a year or more ago happen less often.

The nationalists have lost some of their early rapid momentum. They are concentrating on policies and maintaining the support of about a third of the Scottish vote. The latest opinion poll, published yesterday, put Labour in the lead with 36 per cent, Conserva*tives next with 30 per cent* and the SNP third with 26 per cent.

The nationalists are not dismayed by the drop. The same *decline has happened before* between elections and few seriously believe that the party has peaked or that in a general election the Scottish vote would not be shared about equally among the three parties.

The SNP has built a lively organization and can claim to have achieved much for Scotland, but its aim of Scottish *independence* is unadorned. The difficulty will be to persuade Scots that that does not mean chaotic separation but merely a *new constitutional arrangement* with England.

In an inflation-ridden, deeply dissatisfied country it was easier for the SNP to attack even the *institutions to which it sought* election, holding out the wealth of North Sea oil as the key to viable independence.

The economic outlook is brightening, ironically by courtesy of North Sea oil, and if the Government is able to translate that into more jobs and a clear improvement in the Scots' lot, the impetus towards independence could be further defused.

Total independence never has been the wish of a majority in Scotland but as the SNP points out, *it is now the wish of a* growing minority.

The anti-devolutionists sense that they will have strong cards at *the referendum. Opinion* polls suggest that Scotland would prefer an assembly with more power than the Govern*ment is prepared to allow*; what has been offered in the sleeker and improved Bill could still be seen as an expensive way of *altering Scottish government.*

There will be storm clouds overhanging its future, they say, when the overall costs of gov*ernment are added up.* The basic bill will be at least £10m, paid presumably from the block grant. A further layer of civil *servants will be required or an* expensive reorganization of the recently reorganized local government service.

If the assembly is given tax-raising powers, that will remove more from Scottish pockets unless a system of raising revenue is discovered that costs nothing. That may all coincide with an upward revaluation of domestic rates and the adjustment in payment to local councillors as a result of the Robinson committee recommendations.

A Scottish assembly that even appears to be putting up the cost of government can expect to have to fight hard for *popularity and the doubters are* likely to point out that the price of providing a more democratic watch on the workings of the Scottish Office is too high. Will the emotional wish for an assembly survive the bill incurred, they ask.

Rightly or wrongly the argument against devolution says that the risk of giving the assembly economic powers, a share of the oil revenues and the right to legislate without being overruled by Westminster *would be even greater for* the unity of Britain.

Next: Options for Shetlands

Talks with TUC expected in next few weeks

Continued from page 1

be seen to mean "what companies must afford".

Mr Gerald Mortimer, deputy chairman of Consolidated Goldfields, gave a warning against what he described as a "syndicalist approach", and said such measures would continue to add to the erosion of differentials.

Mr Fane Vernon, chairman and managing director of Ash and *Lacy, a Midlands firm, raised loud* applause when he said he wanted nothing more to do with union leaders. "The only power the unions have is to throw a spanner in the works", he said.

"The Government must stop talking to the trade union leaders as though they were the leaders *of industry, which they are not.*"

The motion had been proposed by Mr John Methven during a tough speech in which he described the present system of *pay bargaining as a total failure.* It had led to consistently high inflation, lost production, industrial disruption and all the factors that made it wellnigh impossible to compete in the marketplace.

The present pay round had led to power cuts, a firemen's strike, and soaring strike figures. Every*one was now wondering whether* the miners would be bought off or would once more confront the Government and possibly bring it down.

Our Labour Staff writes: The CBI is expected to open talks within the next few weeks with the TUC on its pay determination propo*sals. Union leaders are likely to* approach the discussions with caution.

CBI leaders, however, are confident that senior TUC officials will accede to a request for talks.

Call for tax changes, page 19
Business Diary, page 21

Unanimous call for moderation on wages

Mr H. B. Greenborough, deputy president of the CBI, called for national discipline to prevent sectional interests from seeking short-lived benefits at the expense of others. "What we desperately need is for the entire nation to become a confederation of British enterprise. We must *show that we mean business.*"

He was proposing two resolutions: the first, carried with only *one or two dissenting hands,* urged the Government to give priority to reducing inflation and to use the opportunities provided by North Sea Oil and a favourable balance of payments to give business the means to achieve lasting prosperity on the basis of policies set out in the CBI policy *document, Britain means Business.*

The second resolution, which was carried unanimously, urged the Government, employers and trade union movement to strive for moderation in pay increases. Both resolutions will be referred to the CBI's governing council for further action.

Mr Greenborough, deputy chairman and managing director of Shell UK Ltd, said that over the past two years Britain had *applied a tourniquet to hyper*inflation, but the aim must be the total elimination of the malignancy of the disease.

"What we must not do is relax and be profligate and enjoy the bounty of our oil. North Sea fl will be a great help to recovery but it must not tempt us *to try to live comfortably and* trouble-free for the next 10 years. If this is the path we take then we are lost."

Oil revenue must be used to reduce the level of personal taxation, which was stifling incentive and enterprise. Productivity must be increased, and once *inflation was beaten* they could tackle unemployment.

Mr Alan Grant, chairman of Westminster Chamber of Commerce, said they must spread the message that businessmen were ordinary people interested in Britain's welfare and not antisocial bogeymen.

Mr Michael Feilden, director general, British Footwear Manufacturers' Federation, said that 4,500,000 of the 7,500,000 people *employed in industry worked in* high labour-cost concerns. If the country wanted an acceptable level of employment it was necessary to preserve the future of those industries.

He could see no alternative to rigid selective import controls on the few countries that were dis*rupting employment in plant in*dustries. "If you lose an old plant industry you will never get it started again."

Mr Richard Lloyd, of Williams and Glyn's Bank, said that CBI members in the financial service industries (banking, shipping, insurance) should "come out from *the shadows*". The challenge from trade unionism was growing faster in the white-collar areas and there was the threat of nationalization. The old distinction between the City and industry was fading fast.

Sir Henry Plumb, president National Farmers' Union, said those who believed that in six weeks' time Britain would be fully inside the "Common Market" could not be more mistaken. As far as agriculture was concerned, *on January 1, 1978, Britain would* be even farther from operating a common policy than it was on January 1, 1973.

The division of the EEC into seven separate monetary levels meant there were seven different price levels. In three big sectors of agricultural production—beef, milk and pig meat—farmers were suffering from the EEC's failure to resolve the monetary question. Much of the blame for that attached to the British Government's policies.

Sir George Burton, of Fisons, chairman of the CBI's overseas committee, said they were disappointed with the insignificance of the relaxation of foreign exchange control in the Chancellor's recent measures.

Sir Michael Clapham, vice-president of the CBI said the Government must play a more positive role in the development of the *EEC. Britain had been breaking* the Community's rules over the transfer of capital on the ground that Britain had a precarious balance of payments. "The balance is strong now, so we demand freedom to invest anywhere in the EEC."

Mr Ronald Halstead, chairman of *Beechams, said* the new price control legislation put a lot of power in the hands of very few people and had created uncertainty in business. There was no economic justification for price controls, which were "a confidence trick on the consumer and extremely damaging to British *industry*".

Mr Ray Pennock, deputy chairman of ICI, said employers accepted without reservation that wages had to be kept in check if inflation was to be conquered. The Government had preached well on pay moderation, especially in the public sector, but it remained to *be seen if it would practise what* it had preached. Rises in basic pay of 10 per cent followed by loosely defined productivity deals "could be the fastest road to ruin since 1974".

The absence of jobs was a scourge and a shame and, after curbing inflation, the next priority was to create them. But job-creation schemes were at best a palliative and at worse a cruel deception. Jobs had to be created by winning orders in world markets and producing goods other people wanted.

The output of a British worker was only two-thirds that of a German worker, half that of an American, and one fifth that of a Japanese. North Sea oil provided only a crutch.

Market economy 'essential for prosperity and freedom'

The conference unanimously carried a resolution asserting that Britain was grossly over-governed and emphasizing that the encouragement of a free-market economy was essential to national prosperity and the preservation of a free society.

The resolution demanded that the Government stem the flood of legislation strangling trade, finance and industry, stop further *disruptive intervention in* business, and maintain the real total of public expenditure at the present level so that econmoic growth *meant an increase in the resources* available to individuals and businesses.

Mr Trevor Holdsworth, managing director of Guest Keen and Nettlefold and chairman of the CBI's state intervention committee, proposed the motion. He said that the market economy had not failed.

As a generator of wealth for millions it had succeeded as no other system had.

The vast majority of people enjoyed a prosperity which only the rich could expect 30 years ago. The immense wealth of Europe, the United States and Japan was proof that capitalism had successfully harnessed entrepreneurial and managerial talent and initiative to provide material comfort.

But it was not onl yfor wealth-creation that a free-enterprise system was necessary. It was *essential if Britain* was to remain a free society. Little by little both the well intentioned and the malevolent were reducing freedom of action.

The state's increasing claims on the nation's wealth had stifled initiative and enterprise and held back industry and commerce. That trend must be reversed. A freezing of the level of public spending would, given a growing economy, bring about a shift of resources *bac kto* the private sector and a reduction in taxation.

Mr Derek Gaulter, of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, told delegates that they lived, in employment terms, in an era of public affluence and private squalor.

Last month the Labour Party had adopted proposals for nationalization of some large contractors and the introduction of more direct labour. Those proposals would be fought "every inch of the way".

Mr G. A. Bingham, of Stanley Blythen and Co, chairman of the CBI's East Midlands regional council, said he did not believe the nation could borrow itself out of trouble. "*The sooner we start* cutting our clothing according to our cloth the better it will be."

Mr Frank Ward, managing direc*tor* of Ward Brothers (Sherburn) Ltd, said a stage had been reached where nobody had any faith in the country. All blamed each other. In wartime everyone had pulled together as a team and won. A different war was being fought today.

Dr William MacFarlane, of Matrix Engineering Ltd, Brechin, said in an anti-devolution speech that Scottish industry and commerce were anxious about the outcome of the Commons vote on a Scottish assembly. The running costs of an assembly would mean more taxes and the seeds of conflict would be sown which would beak up the United Kingdom.

Mr David Nickson, of William Collins and Sons, Glasgow, said the devolution Bills were designed as political expedients to put out the fires of national aspirations. The Bills were irrelevant to the needs of the nation.

Mr Ronald Lyne, of A.N. & S. Europe Ltd, Bristol, urged the CBI to launch a three-year programme *of publicity* to tell the British public about the value of industry.

Sir Denis Rooke, chairman of the British Gas Corporation, said that if the nationalized industries were not well managed the improvement in British industry's performance would be set back mightily.

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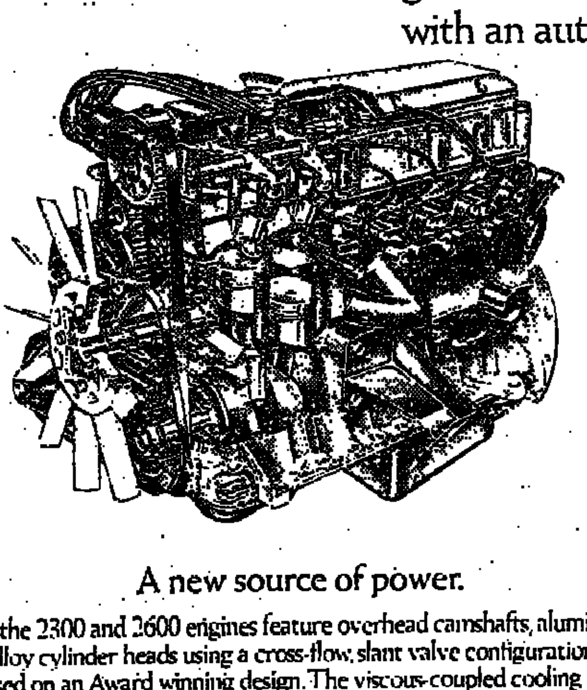

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WEST EUROPE

Mr Callaghan favours new EEC applicants but insists on reforms

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

In a speech devoted mainly to the prospects of the European Community, Mr Callaghan last night welcomed the applications by Greece, Portugal and Spain to join the EEC.

"We believe it will have the effect of buttressing democracy in those states, although they recognize, as we do, that the problems that will have to be solved will take some time", the Prime Minister said at the Lord Mayor's banquet.

"Our purpose in supporting *their applications is to* strengthen the representative character of the Community not *to dilute or weaken it.* Indeed, none of the changes which we wish to see will weaken the Community", *he said.*

Turning to the problems facing the EEC, he said that "in the common, as well as in the national interest, we seek a reform of the common agricultural policy."

The seas around Britain were a source of food and, for a significant but finite period, of energy. Therefore, a common energy policy should take full account of Britain's emphasis as a producer as well as of the interests of all member states at consumers.

Tackling the present dispute about fishing, Mr Callaghan said: "It also happens that about 60 per cent of all the fishery resources in the European Community are within the 200-mile limit around our islands.

"No common fisheries policy which does not take that factor fully into account will be accepted as fair by our fishing industry, which is already suffering from its exclusion from similar 200-mile zones elsewhere."

Recalling that the ideal of a united Europe was born in the aftermath of two world wars, Mr Callaghan said that "with hindsight, we can see that perhaps the founding fathers were paying too much attention to the finished spire of the cathedral and too little to the foundations:

"Europe has never lacked for *architects: but it may need* moreb uilders."

Although Mr Callaghan's speech charted the future course of the EEC; it was regarded as extremely significant by pro-European politicians that the Prime Minister made no mention of the Government's intentions on direct elections to the European Parliament.

The target date is set for May or June next year, but even *the most enthusiastic pro-European* MPs now accept that Britain will not meet the deadline, and that Mr Callaghan wants to delay the European elections until after the British general election.

Turning to Britain, Mr Callaghan said that during Jubilee Year overseeas confidence in Britain had grown..

"*There is a big job still to* be done in reducing inflation, *in increasing levels of productivity, in being more aggressive* in overseas markets, in reducing unemployment.

"We have won some important battles against inflation and are well placed to win more.

"But the real victory will come when we achieve and maintain a steady and contiuuous period of growth in our economy, a much lower level of unemployment and steadier prices."

Reunion for Herr Palmers and his wife Gunilla in Vienna.

Kidnappers get £1.1m for Austrian

From Sue Masterman
Vienna, Nov 14

The family of Herr Walter Michael Palmers, the 74-year-old Austrian textile magnate who was released early this morning by the kidnappers who had held him for four *days, paid a ransom of 31m* schillings £1.1m). He was found by his son in an hotel here.

Herr Palmers, a multi-millionaire whose empire is built on a chain of lingerie stores and laundries, said after his release that he had been well treated and that his kidnappers, said to be two or three men and a woman, were educated people with German rather than Austrian accents.

He had been held prisoner *in a room 7ft by 4ft, probably* in Vienna and not far from a tram stop. He had not been allowed to hear news bulletins but had been fed regularly.

Herr Palmers, who suffers from a mild heart complaint and who will be 75 next week but still works full time in his business, was said by his doctor to be reasonably fit despite *slight shock.*

The Palmers family, who negotiated his release with the kidnappers, said that they had received a letter stating conditions after they made a radio and television appeal on Friday. Later they had received a photograph as evidence that Herr Palmers was still alive. The ransom is believed to have been handed over yesterday afternoon by a member of the family.

Austrian security services suspect that the kidnapping might be the work of an organization associated with the West German Red Army *Faction terrorist group.*

In contrast to the Durch police, who are still treating the kidnapping in Amsterdam of Mr Maurits Caransa, the property magnate, as a purely criminal affair, the Austrians *believe that factors such as the* age of the people they are searching for, their German accents, their intelligence and the currancies in which they demanded payment could indicate that the terrorists have found a new way of raising funds.

Britain disputes EEC view on duration of fish pact

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Nov 14

British and Irish sources denied today that an EEC agreement under which member states may take temporary national measures to control fishing in their waters will expire at the end of the year. That is the claim of both their EEC partners and Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the European *Commissioner responsible for* fisheries.

Mr Silkin, the Minister of Agriculture, considers that the agreement, concluded in October of last year in The Hague, will remain in force until the Nine agree on how they are to exploit and share out the fish stocks in their new 200-mile limits.

Although the key paragraph of agreement refers to "the year 1977", there seems to be some room for legal dispute as to whether this means it is only valid for that year.

If Britain's partners refuse to renew The Hague provisions at *the end of the year,* and Britain is unable to accept the terms of a new common fisheries policy, the Government would have little choice but to impose national control over its 200-mile zone.

Fresh start on Gibraltar in Strasbourg

Talks about the future of *Gibraltar are to be held* in Strasbourg later this month between Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, and Señor Oreja, the Spanish Foreign Minister, with representatives of Gibraltar present.

The meeting, which is seen as marking a fresh start after the long and rather acrimonious record of discussions on *Gibraltar, will* be on November 24.

The Gibraltarian representatives will be Sir Joshua Hassan, the Chief Minister, and Mr Maurice Xiberras, Leader of the Opposition.

Ecologists could decide result of French poll

From Ian Murray
Paris, Nov 14

France's ecological movement will make no electoral pacts with the main parties in *the forthcoming elections.* They decided at their conference in Mulhouse over the weekend that they would put up their own candidates wherever they could.

The ecologists expect to win about 3 per cent of the vote in the first round of the elections and if, as seems likely, polling between the main parties is very close, their supporters could be crucial to the result of the final round.

Their leaders said at the end of the conference that the parties of both the right and left represented a form of management of society which the movement wanted to change. It would be the job of their 100 or so candidates to put forward the ideas of that society and not to make any concessions to the big parties.

The "green candidates" will be equipped for their campaign with a book which is to be published at the turn of the year setting out the ecological movement's ideas for a new society. The book will not set out ready-made answers to the problems of the world, but will seek to set out the arguments in a way that could lead to consultation to produce a solution.

An opinion poll in today's *Quotidien de Paris* predicts that the left will win most votes in the first round of the elections and that the Government majority will win most seats in the second round.

In the second round of the elections, however, the unpopu*larity of the Communist Party* with other voters of the left would mean that in any combination the Government parties' candidate could expect a significantly higher proportion of support from them. This would mean that Government candidates would often win seats where they were behind in the first round.

Wine growers and dealers combine to ward off excessive price increases

Small but choice Bordeaux harvest

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Nov 14

This year's harvest in the vineyards of Bordeaux is one of the smallest since 1946—less than half a normal harvest and a third of the exceptionally big one of 1976. But thanks to an unusually sunny autumn, it is of high quality.

This combination of penury and quality should normally have produced a flare-up of prices, if the past pattern held good.

But things have changed in the Bordelais. The wine trade has forsworn speculation and *decided to discipline itself.* The "contract of Bordeaux", endorsed by both growers and dealers, which laid down guidelines for the fixing of prices, has proved its reliability, M Paul Glotin, the president of the Council of Bordeaux Wines, grouping growers, brokers, and dealers, has told the press.

Between 1970 and 1975, this fluctuation in prices was responsible for the great Bordeaux wine crisis. Everyone wanted Bordeaux, and there was not enough to go round. Wines from other regions were then *surreptitiously* baptized "Bordeaux". Wines were bought up purely for speculation. Prices doubled, trebled, or even quadrupled in a few weeks. International groups joined in the fray.

Then *came* the record harvest of 1973, the oil crisis, the scandal of the Cruse firm, one of the most venerable of the celebrated Quai des Chartrons, the aristocracy of the wine trade, and the bottom fell out of the market.

Dealers found themselves with their cellars full of wine bought at three to four times the prices it would fetch in 1975, and many had to sell their stock at a crippling loss. The strongest ones survived. The lesser breed were eliminated.

The growers, who had renovated their châteaux and houses, *heavily invested in new* equipment, and extended their acreage, were up to their ears in debt. The quip in Bordeaux a couple of years ago, was that 90 per cent of the Bordeaux vineyards belonged to the *Crédit Agricole, and 90 per* cent of the trade to other banks.

The crisis provoked a social and psychological revolution in Bordeaux, the proud dynasties of the Chartrons were toppled *from their eminence,* and plebeian wine dealers took over.

One of them, M Jean-Paul Jauffret, was even elected president of the Council of Bordeaux vines and started a series of reforms which led in 1976 to the self-denying ordinance of the "contract of Bordeaux".

It was not easy in a profes*sion riddled with* individualism, distrust, and petty rivalries, to organize the greater part of 30,000 growers, and 400 dealers, who handle 40 *Appellations d'origine,* and the 3,000 odd châteaux wines, many no more than trade marks. But a limited harvest of good quality in 1975, and a return of favour to Bordeaux in the eyes of French and foreign customers, helped to neal the wounds.

M Glotin emphasized that the new mechanisms to regu*late the market had for two* years been faced with penury and stood the test well. Their mainstay was the fixing of floor and ceiling prices decided each year by negotiation between growers and dealers, for the new harvest. This affected five main groups of generic Bordeaux, accounting for threequarters of the total production.

This year, the average agreed for 1976 and 1977 Bordeaux and *Bordeaux des côtes* wines is 3,500 francs (£402) the barrel of 900 litres, the variation allowed being 10 per cent more or less. This means an increase of 40 per cent in price, spread over two years, *in relation to the 1976 har*vest.

For the consumer, it should mean an average price of 8 francs a bottle, compared to 6.50 francs last year—or an increase of 25 per cent, also *spread over two years.* For Médocs, the prices vary between 4,600 and 5,600 francs a barrel.

M Glotin said that the stocks on hand of some 4,000,000 hectolitres, about the equivalent of a normal year's harvest, would make it possible to supply the market normally, in spite of this year's shortfall, and check some tendencies to *a price flare-up.*

He *expected* the agreed prices to be held. But the real test would come next spring, when it would be possible to tell whether a normal harvest was in sight for the autumn of 1978, and new ceiling prices would be fixed.

Spanish airport staff may strike again

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Nov 14

Spain's airports were back to normal today after a three-day strike by ground staff. But no pay agreement is in sight, which could mean another strike at the weekend.

The Government has rejected *ground staff demands for minimum* monthly take-home pay of £200, which exceeds the 22 per cent pay rise ceiling set by the Opposition and the Government in their economic pact last month.

Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister, may, however, call an all-party meeting to discuss whether the pact in fact applies to the airport staff, who put in their claim several months before it came into force.

Paris driving instructors stop the traffic

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Nov 14

Paris rush-hour traffic, never particularly fast moving, was brought to a standstill in many areas this morning by 850 driving school cars. The driving instructors were protesting against the difficulty in earning a living at present rates.

The 850 cars filtered into the traffic at seven of the main entrances to the city, and on some avenues in the sixteenth district and then crawled.

The cars were then parked in the Place des Invalides and 1,350 instructors and school owners went to the Ministry of Prices to lodge their complaint.

They want the hourly tariff of a lesson raised from 50 to 60 francs (£5.75 to £6.93)

Brussels jail riot quelled

Brussels, Nov 14.—Police stormed barricades and fired tear gas grenades to end a prison revolt here early today after about 140 prisoners rioted *for 12 hours and set fire to* mattresses, police sources said.

About 100 armed police rushed to the jail at St Gilles and surrounded the rioters, who were protesting about conditions in the nineteenth century prison and *demanding reforms* in the penal system.—Reuter.

Passengers flee fire on train

Freilassing, W Germany, Nov 14. A fire apparently started deliberately destroyed two carriages of the Hellas trans-European express train early today *after it made an emergency stop* on its journey from Dortmund to Athens near the West German-Austrian frontier.

Dozens of passengers escaped unharmed, Bavarian police said.

The two carriages destroyed *were owned by the Yugoslav* state railway and a Greek carriage was damaged.—AP.

OVERSEAS

Egyptians succeed in delaying Arab summit until February

From Edward Mortimer
Tunis, Nov 14

An Arab summit conference, the eighth of its kind, is to be held on February 15. This was the main decision of the three-day Arab foreign ministers' conference here.

The summit will be preceded *by meetings of defence* and economic ministers in the first half of January and then a *further meeting of foreign ministers.*

These decisions constitute a *victory for Egypt which has* been resisting pressure from some other Arab states, notably *Syria and Libya,* to *hold* an immediate summit to define Arab strategy in the present stage of the conflict with Israel.

Mr Ismail Fahmi, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, argued that to hold a summit without first making a careful study of the Arab world's present military and economic capabilities would result in the adoption of purely verbal positions without achieving anything in practice. Behind this argument lie Egyptian *fears* that a *summit* would be used to impose an over-rigid Arab position and thus prevent any further progress towards a peaceful settlement with Israel.

Egyptian officials were encouraged that Syria did not press the point, and emphasized that Mr Fahmi and his Syrian colleague, Mr Abdalhalim Khaddam, had presented a united front against an attack from the Iraqi Minister, Dr Saadoun Hamadi, on the whole present strategy of seeking a peaceful settlement.

The Iraqi view is that a summit on strategy is fairly pointless so long as there are fundamental differences between the approaches of the various Arab states. By contrast, Iraq favours a summit on Arab economic cooperation and it was agreed that the possibility of holding one should be studied at the February summit.

The site of the summit has yet to be decided, Libya has *offered Tripoli,* but while most delegations graciously accepted this invitation *some said* they would have to refer it to their home governments. In fact, it is thought very unlikely that King Hassan of Morocco, to name but one head of state, would wish to go to Libya, a country which has consistently advocated and several times attempted to overthrow his *regime.*

An alternative proposal which may ultimately find favour is to hold the summit at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo (like the one last year which formally ended the Lebanese war).

None the less, the fact that Tripoli has been discussed as a site *is a sign of the much* improved relations between Libya and its Arab neighbours, particularly Egypt and Sudan.

The foreign ministers of the three countries held a separate meeting during the conference at which it was agreed to restore diplomatic "and natural" relations between Sudan and Libya (severed last *year after President Numeiry of* Sudan blamed Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, for an attempt to overthrow him). It was also agreed that the heads of the Egyptian and Libyan "relations offices" (equivalent to embassies) in Tripoli and Cairo should return to their posts within two weeks.

The conference also agreed to condemn the Israeli air raids on southern Lebanon and other Israeli "infringements" of Lebanese sovereignty and called on the great powers and all member states of the United Nations to take all measures to *prevent Israel from making* further such military incursions.. But at the same time it called for the application of the Cairo and Shtoura agreements between Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organization which among other things implies the withdrawal of Palestinian forces from southern Lebanon.

Khartum, Nov 14.—Sudan and Libya today reestablished diplomatic relations, the Sudan news agency reported.—Reuter.

Grand old New York store's final reductions

From Michael Leapman
New York, Nov 14

Special sales, offering absolutely final reductions, are no rare thing in the frenzied field of New York retailing. However, one which starts on Thursday will have particular poig*nancy. It is the absolutely final* closing-down sale of Abercrombie and Fitch, the fashion and sporting goods store with the elegant dark brown facia on Madison Avenue, which has been part of high-style Man*hattan living for 85 years.*

Last year, after more than a decade of difficulty, the chain of nine Abercrombie stores filed for bankruptcy. In the period since then, attempts have been made to shore up the *organization. They came to* nothing when the First National Bank of Chicago, to which the *firm already owed $6m (£3.3m)* refused to lend the extra $2m needed to tide things over until Christmas

Five of the group's nine stores across the country have closed in the last fortnight. The remaining four will start their *closing-down sales this week,* and should be out of business by the end of the year. The Madison Avenue store, built for the company in 1917, will be sold.

A feature of the Madison Avenue building is a mock log cabin on the top floor in which Mr Ezra Fitch, one of the founders, used to live. It typi*fies the world of the American* outdoors and its well-heeled sporting enthusiasts for which the store once so successfully catered.

Its *former* customers include some of America's most notable men. President Roosevelt went there for equipment to take on safari and at least three other Presidents — Wilson, Eisen*hower and* Kennedy—are known to have shopped there for rifles. Herbert Hoover bough fishing gear there and Ernest Hemingway conducted his outdoor pursuits clothed and equipped by Abercrombie and Fitch. Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart wrapped up warm for their early aviation feats in gear bought from *the store.*

It soon broadened its range to include clothing which sportsmen and women could sport when engaged in less bought fishing gear there and heavy tweed suits and cashmere sweaters—mostly from Britain—and those highly-polished brown brogues which wealthy Americans wear in *their all-male mock-gothic* clubs.

In the last decade, though, New York retailing has been altered by the arrival of heavily competitive cut-price stores selling much the same goods as the older-established outfits. At the same time hunting, shooting and fishing have ceased to become elitist *pastimes.*

Hundreds and thousands of American men now take to the woods and streams with their guns and rods, but they do not buy them in Madison Avenue. They get them in huge discount department stores in the shopping centres

What Abercrombie and Fitch offered with their merchandise *were dedicated, cordial and* knowledgeable salesmen who would discuss a puchaser's requirements with depth and insight. Most modern Americans are prepared to forgo that service in favour of a sharply reduced price, and the store never really came to terms with that.

Dr Owen consults US on next Rhodesia step

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Dr Owen, the Foregin Secretary, discussed Rhodesia with Mr Richard Moose, assistant under-secretary at the State Department, and other American officials yesterday. Field Marshal Lord Carver, the British Commissioner-designate for Rhodesia, was also present.

They considered what to do next after the failure of British moves to arrange a meeting in Malta of Rhodesian military commanders and leaders of the Patriotic Front nationalist alliance.

Lusaka, Nov 14.—Mr Joshua Nkomo, joint leader of the Patriotic Front, said today that the Anglo-American settlement plan had failed and indicated that he would push for a direct handover of power to the guerrilla forces of the Front.

He said Mr Smith was responsible for the setback over the Malta talks.—Reuter.

Dar es Salaam, Nov 14.—Two Rhodesian jet fighters and a helicopter were shot down yesterday in an air attack on Mapai, in Mozambique's Gaza province, the Mozambique information agency said.

The report was denied in *Salisbury by a Rhodesian military* spokesman.—UPI.

Angola 'plot' denied: In Brussels a spokesman for General Alexander Haig, Commander of Nato in Europe, dismissed as "ridiculous" a Tass allegation *that he had plotted with South* Africa to overthrow the Angolan government.

Tass said in Moscow today that secret plans for subversive operations had been made at a meeting in Zurich in July, 1976. The meeting was attended by Dr Kissinger, then United States Secretary of State, General Haig and Mr Vorster, the *South African Prime Minister.*

The agreement provided for the establishment in Namibia and Rhodesia of governments friendly to the United States to be followed by "destabilizing military operations" against the Angolan Government, Tass said. It gave no sources for its report.—AP and Reuter.

Manila hotel fire fanned by typhoon claims 44 lives

Manila, Nov 14.—Fire swept through a leading Manila hotel during a typhoon today killing at least 44 people, officials reported. Several of the dead were foreign tourists who panicked and leapt from the roof of the seven-storey Filipinas hotel overlooking Manila Bay.

Police were investigating reports that the fire was started by a candle lit by a German couple in a fifth-floor room after a power blackout hit the hotel, occupied at the time by more than 200 people.

But Mr William Oliver, of *California,* said power was on at the time and that he used a lift to escape.

Most of the victims were apparently trapped by the flames. Some survivors said they had found the fire exit doors locked and they escaped through the stairways.

The typhoon apparently whipped up the flames which soon leapt to the sixth and seventh floors and spread to an adjacent nine-storey annexe.

Several people died when they leapt through their windows or from ledges.

Police said many bodies were recovered from the top floors, especially the ninth floor of the hotel annexe, where one room alone reportedly yielded 10 bodies. Some victims were found in bathrooms.

Typhoon Kim, with gusts of up to 127 mph, pounded the Philippines' main island of Luzon last night and this morning leaving a girl dead and 10,000 people homeless, officials reported.

Among the homeless were 300 families whose houses were swamped by tidal waves in the *Camarines Norte province,* 140 miles south-east of here.

Weekend cyclone: South-eastern India was hit by a cyclone and torrential rains over the weekend claiming at least 350 lives.—Agence France-Preses, AP and Reuter.

Algerians 'taken as reprisal for French hostages'

Paris, Nov 14.—Two Algerians were kidnapped in a suburb here last night by an extreme right-wing organization calling itself the Charles Martel Committee, an anonymous telephone caller told Agence France-Presse today.

He said they were being held against the lives of two French*men kidnapped by the Polisario* Front Saharan liberation movement last month in raids near the Mauritanian iron mining town of Zouerate.

The caller said the Algerians would suffer exactly the same fate as the kidnapped Frenchmen.

In December, 1973, the Charles Martel Committee *claimed responsibility for a* bomb explosion in the Algerian consulate in Marseilles in which four people were killed and more than 20 wounded. Its aim is "to save France from the disaster of the Algerian (immigrant) invasion".

Another rope found before terrorist's death

Munich, Nov 14.—Bavarian authorities said today that they *confiscated a makeshift rope* from the prison quarters of Ingrid Schubert, the Baader-Meinhof terrorist, just a few hours before she committed suicide at the weekend.

A Justice Ministry spokesman said the rope, *made of* twisted strands of bed sheets, was hidden under a toilet in a *tick ward* occupied by Fraud Schubert in Munich'ss Stadelheim jail.

She was then moved to another cell, where she was found hanging from the window bars with bed sheets wound round her neck on Saturday night.—Reuter.

Herr Schmidt faces nuclear energy clash

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Nov 14

Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, his stature *and popularity* enhanced by his handling of the recent terrorist dramas, will now seek the backing of his Social Democratic Party (SPD) on major policy issues at the party congress in Hamburg this week.

But the party's left-wing, sceptical of the Government's actions, has made it clear that the congress is not simply going to rubber-stamp ideas handed down from above. The SPD is not a party for the *reelection of the Chancellor,* a leading left-winger commented drily.

One of the most important issues up for debate is the nuclear energy programme, designed to produce the extra power which West Germany's colossal industrial machine will need in the 1980s The programme is at present partially paralysed by court actions by the country's flourishing *environmentalist pressure* groups.

Until recently the bulk of the party appeared to be in favour of holding up the programme at least until the first building licence for a nuclear waste reprocessing and storage plant in Lower Saxony could be issued. This is expected to take at least three years.

On the other hand, Herr Schmidt made it clear that it was his responsibility to continue the Government's policy and, if necessary, would do so against the wishes of the party.

Events, however, have combined to draw the two sides closer and possibly avoid a head-on clash. The Free Democrats, at their party congress in Kiel last week, voted in favour of going ahead with six nuclear power stations at or close to the building stage and putting off decisions about others still on the drawing board.

The trade unions have also come out in favour of continuing the programme on the ground that jobs are at stake. A carefully timed demonstration by 40,000 workers underlined the point last week and Herr Schmidt grasped the opportunity to point out that the unions are the country's biggest pressure group.

Party leaders now hope that some kind of agreement can be worked out but the mood of the left is still uncertain.

The left is also expected to raise objections during the discussion of internal security measures against terrorism, in particular against proposals to increase the scope for police telephone tapping and the preventive detention of terrorists after their jail terms expire.

A much trickier question to deal with is the recurring problem of a small group of dissident members who vote, or threaten to vote, against the Government on particular issues.

Docks pact will end delays in post from US

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Nov 14

A six-week dock strike on the East coast of the United States, which has affected postal services to and from Britain, is expected to end at the weekend.

Negotiators for dockers in northern Atlantic ports have agreed with employers on a settlement allowing for a 30 per cent wage increase, and it is expected that similar agreements will be reached at other Atlantic ports.

The strike was a partial one, affecting only container ships. *The dockers sought job security* as well as increased payments to take account of the higher productivity resulting from containerization and automation. The settlement is expected to be approved by *union members.*

Pro-Shah demonstrators flown to Washington

From David Cross
Washington, Nov 14

Supporters and opponents of the Shah of Iran were today putting the final touches to *their plans for demonstrations* to mark his three-day visit to the United States.

After arriving at Williamsburg, Virginia, for rest and recreation today, the Shah is due in Washington tomorrow for talks with President Carter. Details of his schedule are being disclosed at the last minute only in an attempt to confuse the demonstrators.

Nevertheless, student protesters are threatening to follow the Shah wherever he goes however short the notice. Spokesmen for the students expected 2,000 followers from all parts of the United States to attend. Students from other countries, including Ethiopia, are expected to join them.

The students maintain that the Iranian Government is coercing or bribing Iranians working in the United States to come to Washington to demonstrate for the Shah. An American Air Force spokesman has confirmed that more than 400 Iranian military staff training in Texas under an aid agreement have been given special leave to fly to Washington for the occasion.

The Shah's visit coincides with theopening of a new round of consultations among oil producing countries on prices. The Shah is expected to tell Mr Carter that his government will refrain from calling for a large increase this year.

In return he is expected to present a lengthy shopping list for new aircraft and weapons. Among these are expected to be requests for three more radar aircraft.

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OVERSEAS

Coup plot behind Ethiopian's execution

Djibouti, Nov 14.—The execution on Saturday of Ethiopia's deputy head of state was apparently carried out because he was planning a coup to slow the leftward shift of policy which has tied Ethiopia closely to the Soviet Union in the past few months, informed sources here said today.

They said Lieutenant-Colonel Atnafu Abate, vice-chairman of the ruling military council, the Dergue, was planning to overthrow Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu Haile-Mariam, the head of state, with the support of moderates in the 80-man council and a number of army units hostile to Colonel Mengistu's radical policies.

Reports of increasing hostility between the two colonels, who took supreme power in a gun battle at the Dergue headquarters in Addis Ababa in February, have persistently filtered across the border into Djibouti in recent weeks.

Colonel Atnafu moved his office earlier this year to the headquarters of the army's fourth division, whose responsibility is to defend the capital. He was attached to the division for 14 years and was considered its political leader.

Political observers here said traditional ethnic hostilities also played a part in the growing emnity between the two men. Colonel Atnafu, son of a priest from Gwejam province, belong to the Amharic ethnic group which has dominated Ethiopia in recent centuries.

Colonel Mengistu is a Walamo, a clan of the Galla group which is the biggest in the country numerically but which joined the ancient empire relatively late and often provided labour for Amharic landlords.—Reuter.

Nairobi, Nov 14.—The long list of counter-revolutionary crimes attributed to Colonel Atnafu was thought by diplomatic observers to presage another extensive purge.

Addis Ababa radio said yesterday that the "military bourgeois class" would be purged and there was a historical obligation to use the revolutionary sword to wipe out the enemies of the revolution.

The list of Colonel Atnafu's "crimes" suggested that the scope for finding people guilty of opposing the march of the revolution was very wide.

The official text carried in today's Ethiopian newspapers denounced him for wanting to slow the revolutionary struggle

Other wrong-doings included being in touch with the enemies of the revolution, including CIA agents, opposing sweeping land reforms, conducting himself with "feudal arrogance", advocating a military dictatorship, suggesting reconciliation with political prisoners so they could be freed and ridiculing efforts to form a revolutionary party.

Street demonstrations were staged throughout Somalia today in support of President Siad Barre's decision to expel thousands of Soviet advisers and close their military facilities because of Russian support for Ethiopia, Mogedishu radio, monitored in Nairobi, said.

In a radio broadcast last night, the Somali Government accused the Russians of "brazen interference" in the Horn of Africa. It also severed relations with Cuba because of the alleged presence of Cuban troops in the Ethiopian side of the war in the Ogaden territory.—Reuter and UPI.

Leading article, page 15

Prince's cook 'embarrassed'

Alice Springs, Australia, Nov 14.—The Australian housewife whose cooking left Prince Charles bedridden with food poisoning described the incident today as "the most embarrassing thing that has ever happened to me."

Health officials said 30 of the 140 guests at the lunch here last Thursday were suffering from food poisoning. Five were in hospital. Mrs Pat Govers, aged 45, who runs a private catering firm, said: "I have cooked for Prince Philip, Lord Snowdon and the American Ambassador. Never has anything like this happened before."—Reuter.

Mr Biko's widow Mrs Ntsikie Biko, right, and his mother before the start of the inquest yesterday.

Biko attacked his interrogators, inquest told

From Nicholas Ashford
Pretoria, Nov 14

Steve Biko, the South African Black Consciousness leader, had to be overpowered when he attacked the security police during an interrogation, Major Harold Snyman of the Port Elizabeth security police alleged here today. After a struggle lasting several minutes Mr Biko was placed in handcuffs and leg-irons and locked around a metal grill, he said.

Major Snyman was giving evidence during the opening day of the inquest into the death of Mr Biko. The court heard that shortly before his death in police custody on September 12 Mr Biko had been found lying on the floor of his cell with foam around his mouth. He was breathing rapidly and had a glazed look in his eyes.

The court was also told that Mr Biko was kept naked in his cell for most of the time except when he was being interrogated by the security police. Several police witnesses said Mr Biko refused most food that was put in front of him although there were signs that he did eat some bread and drink some coffee.

The inquest began at 10 am in Pretoria's Old Synagogue which had previously been used for a number of black political trials. Long before the proceedings started the court was packed with a crowd of onlookers, most of them African, and with a large number of foreign and local pressmen. Prominent among those present were Mr Biko's widow, Mrs Ntsikie Biko, and other members of his family, all of them dressed in black.

Just before Mr M. J. Prins, the Transvaal Chief Magistrate, who is presiding over the inquest, entered the court one of the spectators, Mrs Winnie Kgware, stood up and held aloft a portrait of Mr Biko and a wreath.

Later Mrs Kgware, who was the first president of the Black People's Convention (BPC), one of the black consciousness organizations which was banned last month, led a large group of Africans standing around the court room steps in freedom songs.

The court was told that Mr Biko was detained with a Coloured (mixed race) colleague, Mr Peter Jones, in Grahamstown on August 18. He was later moved to Walmer police station near where he was held until September 6 when he was taken to the security police headquarters in Port Elizabeth for interrogation. He stayed there until September 11 and was then briefly moved back to Walmer police station before being taken by road in a Land-Rover to Pretoria where he died the following day.

According to the autopsy report which was laid before the court today Mr Biko died as a result of head injuries. The report said there was "extensive brain injury of the counter-coup type and an abrasion on the left forehead". As a result of the brain injury centralization of the blood circulation had taken place to such a degree that it was complicated by disseminated intravasale blood coagulation as well as acute kidney failure and uraemia. There were also other injuries to the left chest wall as well as skin abrasions.

Under cross-examination by Mr Sydney Kentridge, representing the Biko family, Major Snyman denied that Mr Biko had been assaulted while he was interrogating him. He said he noticed no external marks on the deceased's forehead. He had no idea how a bruise above Mr Biko's left eye, shown in one of a number of photographs which have been produced as evidence, had been sustained.

Major Snyman told the court how Mr Biko had launched "a wild attack" on himself and other security policemen during the second day of his interrogation at security police headquarters.

Mr Biko, he said, had adopted an aggressive attitude towards his interrogators and refused to answer questions. Suddenly he jumped from his chair with a "wild expression in his eyes" and threw the chair at Major Snyman. It missed. Then with clenched fists Mr Biko charged another security policeman, hit at him and pinned him against a steel filing cabinet, Major Snyman added.

Major Snyman then said he and another colleague ran to give assistance. During the struggle that ensued Mr Biko and the police officers knocked against the tables in the offices. Eventually, with the help of the two other policemen, Mr Biko was overpowered and placed in handcuffs and leg-irons.

Major Snyman insisted that the degree of force used to bring Mr Biko under control had been "reasonable".

The following day Mr Biko was visited by the District Police Commissioner, Major Goosen and a district surgeon, Dr Lang. Major Snyman said Mr Biko still had a "wild expression in his eyes" and refused offers of food and drink. He refused to answer any more questions and Major Snyman decided not to continue the interrogation. He noticed that Mr Biko was incoherent

Asked by Mr Kentridge why Mr Biko had been placed in leg-irons from the moment he had arrived at security police headquarters, Major Snyman said this had become normal practice for the past few years following attempts by detainees to commit suicide. Many of the Africans in court whistled when the leg-irons were exhibited.

Several police witnesses who testified today insisted that Mr Biko had never complained about being assaulted or injured and knew of no incidents of maltreatment.

Sergeant van Vuuren added that Mr Biko appeared to eat nothing from the day he was placed in the cells on August 19, although he may have taken some bread and water.

The inquest continues tomorrow.

Secure boundaries become important Greek election issue

Right wing challenges Karamanlis majority

From Mario Modiano
Alexandroupolis
Western Thrace, Nov 14

What kind of government do the Greeks expect to have after Sunday's general election? Not far from here the river Evros marks the boundaries with Turkey and Bulgaria. Mr Haralambos Liuardopoulis, the local Governor, says: "If you are a Greek voter living within a few miles from the frontiers, the first thing you vote for is a government able to safeguard your security."

In the last election, a quarter of a million voters of Western Thrace, gave the ruling New Democracy party of Mr Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, eight of the 12 seats in the three constituencies of Xanthi, Rodope and Evros—a ratio reflecting the national average.

This time the competition from the other parties is stiffer and the modified electoral system can be less generous. Nevertheless, few here doubt that Mr Karamanlis will be given a new mandate, even if they are less certain about his party's overall strength in Parliament.

There is a growing feeling that in some areas the right-wing National Rally may win the odd seat. This party advocates the restoration of the monarchy, an amnesty for the junta and strict anti-communist policies.

In 1974 a similar effort by the right failed and that party polled barely 1 per cent of the vote. This time the bitter memories of the dictatorship are fading and the National Rally has put forward as candidates a number of former deputies with a local appeal who were jilted by the New Democracy because of associations with the junta.

The Rally's chances are also enhanced as the other opposition parties are reluctant to help Mr Karamanlis to defeat his right-wing rival. One Socialist candidate in Thrace told me: "We shall be delighted if the National Rally takes votes away from Karamanlis."

The National Rally appears to have better chances in Thrace because of the presence of a large military vote in these frontier districts, and of the 120,000-strong Muslim minority which tends to have unorthodox voting patterns.

For instance, Rodope, where the bulk of the Muslims live, was the only constituency, beside the traditionally royalist Lakonia in the south, to give a majority to the King in the 1974 referendum.

The local Greeks mistrust the Muslim majority even though relations at personal level are normal. They are convinced that the Muslims eventually vote as instructed by Ankara which, they believe, tries to alienate the minority from the Greeks in order to create pretexts to support future claims of oppression.

In Kometini, the capital of Rodope, two out of the four National Rally candidates are Muslims. One of them said that he was running on a platform *demanding equal rights* for the minority, especially on matters of real property ownership. There are no complaints about civil rights.

Despite all this, the estimates of what support the National Rally should expect throughout the country, range between 3 and 10 per cent of the total. Few of the impartial pundits go above 5 per cent.

This 5 per cent can still hurt Mr Karamanlis as his party is likely to lose discontented voters also on its left. However, psephologists insist that the New Democracy can lose 10 points or more of the 54.4 per cent it polled in 1974, without losing its parliamentary majority.

Against this background, and barring surprises, none of the six parties in Opposition to Mr Karamanlis can credibly offer an alternative government. Many influential Greeks, however, especially here in the north, would like to see Mr Karamanlis broadening the base of his government by setting up a coalition with Mr George Mavros's Democratic Centre Union, the main opposition party.

This possibility is known to have preoccupied Mr Karamanlis. Some say that this is the *reason for his having included* at the head of his party's state candidates' list the name of Mr Panayotis Kanellopoulos, the widely respected former Prime Minister.

The same people are already foreseeing that Mr Karamanlis, after solving some of the main foreign issues with a broadened parliamentary base, may stand for the presidency of the Republic. He would then appoint as his successor Mr Kanellopoulos, who has a good record of cooperation with Mr Mavros since the days of their joint opposition to the dictatorship.

'Think tank' hearings begin today

By Roger Berthoud

Sir Michael Palliser, Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Mr Curtis Keeble the Chief Clerk (head of administration) there, will be the main witnesses today when a House of Commons committee begins a series of public hearings on last summer's controversial report by the Central Policy Review Staff (CPRS) on Britain's overseas representation.

Among the more drastic recommendations of the "think-tank" report were the creation of a Foreign Service Group to replace the diplomatic service, taking over most of its work and some of that of the Ministry of Overseas Development, and the external trade side of the Department of Trade; the abolition of the British Council; and drastic cuts in the BBC's external broadcasting. Public reaction was on the whole hostile.

The Commons inquiry is being conducted by the nine members (five Labour, four Conservatives) of the defence and external affairs sub-committee of the Commons' public expenditure committee. The only member of detectably left-wing views is Dr Maurice Miller (Labour MP for East Kilbride). The chairman is a 70-year-old Conservative backbencher, Sir Harwood Harrison, member for Eye, Suffolk. He will be attending a funeral today, and will be replaced in the chair by Mr Geoffrey Finsberg (Conservative MP for Hampstead).

The main aim of the committee will be to winnow some of the wheat from the more tendentious chaff of the CPRS report, and to make its own contribution to any eventual Government decision on the implementation of parts of the report.

So far a special Cabinet committee, with the Prime Minister in the chair, has considered the broad outlines of the report at only one meeting. There is also a roughly matching committee consisting of the permanent secretaries of the affected departments, which include Trade, the Treasury and the Civil Service Department.

The government has given no clues about its own attitude to the report, nor about when it would aim to take any decision on it. Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, is expected to give evidence some time in January, but the hearings may not end until March.

It is probable that Dr Owen would not want to make recommendations that would be overturned by the Cabinet; and that Foreign Office officials will not want to preempt their own minister. On the other hand, Sir Michael Palliser can be forthright as well as polished.

Today's questions are likely to concentrate on such factual matters as the extent of cross-fertilization between the Foreign Office and home civil service departments (which the report felt should be increased), and the existing practice in the export promotion field. Entertainment expenditure, a afvourite target of the Foreign Office's critics, may also be looked at.

A good deal of written evidence has already been submitted to the subcommittee by the main departments and organizations affected by the report. Later witnesses are expected to include Sir Kenneth Berrill, head of the CPRS; Mr Ian Trethowan, Director-General of the BBC; Mr Gerard Mansell, Managing Director, External Broadcasting; and Sir John Llewellyn, director-general of the British Council, as well as representatives of such organizations as the Confederation of British Industry.

One of the main difficulties of the MPs is likely to be to salvage some of the CPRS's sounder recommendations from the radical ones which have aroused such intense opposition both at home and abroad. Existing procedures make it virtually impossible to question junior officials whose views might be closer to those of the think tank than their superior's.

China says its transport is lagging far behind

From David Bonavia
Hongkong, Nov 14

China has admitted that it is extremely backward in transport facilities and must remedy this situation speedily in the interests of modernization.

The Peking *People's Daily* wrote: "The gap between us and many countries is still very great. There is not even one express highway in the whole country."

It said existing means of communications were still very backward in comparison with the advanced level already reached in the world. "In marine transport, the scale of our country's fleet, port development, the regulation of waterways and the level of technical installations are also very backward.

"The Yangtze is one of the five main rivers of the world and its basin is rich in produce. However, the volume of cargo now handled by the trunk line or throughout the whole system is still relatively small."

China suffers from an unfortunate geography, in which the main lines of north-south transport are crossed by rivers and mountains. There is no national road network, although there are plenty of good metalled roads around the larger towns

Railways are mostly single track and the rivers are still an important means of internal transport. The civil aviation fleet is small and used mostly for passenger transport. The seaports are notorious for their congestion, which results in Chinese-chartered vessels often waiting weeks to be unloaded

The paper concluded: "We should see that our country's present means of communications and transport are still only at the level of the industrially advanced countries in the 1950s."

Crocodile snatchers

Johore Baru, Malaysia, Nov 14.—Thieves raided a crocodile farm near here and got away with 113 baby crocodiles worth about $6,000 (£3,200). Singapore does a thriving trade in exporting crocodile skins.

Congo clampdown

Brazzaville, Nov 14.—In a clampdown on corruption and maladministration in Congo, it was announced that a state administrator has been accused of embezzling the equivalent of £4,000 of public funds.

Law Report November 14 1977 — House of Lords

Lords refuse to alter 1966 decision

Fitzleet Estates Ltd and Others v Cherry (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Lord Wilberforce, Viscount Dilhorne, Lord Salmon, Lord Edmund-Davies and Lord Keith of Kinkel

[Speeches delivered November 9]

The House of Lords unanimously declined to consider reversing its own majority decision in a Revenue case—*Chancery Lane Safe Deposit & Offices Co Ltd v Inland Revenue Commissioners* ([1966] AC 85)—that a company which had of its own choice attributed interest payments to capital could not later treat a payment actually made out of capital as notionally made out of income.

Their Lordships dismissed a "leapfrog" appeal, pursuant to a certificate granted by Mr Justice Templeman under section 13 of the Administration of Justice Act, 1969, by Fitzleet Estates Ltd, a *privately owned property company*, from his decision ([1977] 1 WLR 538) that it was not entitled to deduct and retain income tax under section 169 of the Income Tax Act, 1952, for two tax years on interest payments which the company had originally charged to its profit and loss account and then transferred and added to the cost of land and buildings acquired—"capitalizing" the interest—and had accordingly been correctly assessed to tax on those sums under section 170 of the Act.

Their Lordships held that the present case was indistinguishable from the *Chancery Lane* case and that there was *no* ground on which the decision should be disturbed.

Mr Stewart Bates, QC, Mr Stephen Oliver and Mr S. J. Allcock for the taxpayer company; Mr Peter Archer, QC, Solicitor General, Mr Michael Nolan, QC, and Mr Brian Davenport for the Crown.

LORD WILBERFORCE said that Fitzleet borrowed sums of money in connexion with its business and paid interest on them. The sums of interest payable were charged to its profit and loss account. If nothing more had happened, the company would have been entitled under section 169 of the Income Tax Act, 1952, to retain income tax deducted from such interest as it in fact paid, if it had taxed profits equal to or greater than the interest.

What the company did, however, was to transfer sums equivalent to the "net" interest payable in the years in question—1961-62 and 1962-63—and add them to the cost of land and buildings acquired as shown in the balance sheet. That process was called "capitalizing" the interest. There were no doubt sound business reasons for doing so and that course was approved by the company's auditors. It led, however, to a claim by the Revenue for the company to account to it for income tax on the interest paid in each year, on the basis that section 170 of the Act applied.

That section 170 did apply in such a case was held in the *Chancery Lane* case by a majority of the House, Lord Reid and Lord Upjohn dissenting.

It was now conceded that the present case was on the facts indistinguishable from the earlier decision. In particular it was true of both cases that in each of the years in question the taxed fund of the company's profits was sufficient to cover the interest and any dividend paid in that year. The appellant company therefore had to challenge directly the *Chancery Lane* case.

The appeal came direct to the House from the High Court and their Lordships were invited to depart from the earlier decision in accordance with the Practice Statement (Judicial Precedent) ([1966] 1 WLR 1234) [which stated that though the House of Lords regarded the use of precedent as an indispensable foundation on which to decide what the law was and its application to individual cases, it recognized that too rigid adherence to precedent might lead to injustice in a particular case and also unduly restrict the proper development of the law; and that it proposed in future to modify its present practice and, while treating former decisions of the House as normally binding, to depart from a previous decision when it appeared right to do so; but that it would bear in mind the danger of disturbing retrospectively the basis on which contracts, settlements of property and fiscal arrangements had been entered into and also the especial need for certainty as to the criminal law].

Two points were clear. 1 Though Mr Bates had developed his argument with freshness and vigour, no contention was advanced or could be advanced by him which was not before the House in 1966. The very full report of the arguments of counsel on that occasion left no doubt as to that. The desperate argument of per incuriam was certainly not available here.

2 There had been no change of circumstance such as would call for or justify a review of the 1966 decision. The fact, if it were so, that the 1966 decision worked hardly on property companies was not such a change of circumstance.

There was therefore nothing left for the company but to contend—as counsel frankly did—that the decision was wrong. That meant that three or more of their Lordships ought to take the view which in 1966 appealed to the minority.

In his Lordship's firm opinion, the 1966 Practice Statement was never intended to allow and should not be considered to allow such a course. Nothing could be more undesirable in fact than to permit litigants, after a decision had been given by the House with all appearance of finality, to return to the House in the hope that a differently constituted committee might be persuaded to take the view which its predecessors rejected. True, the earlier decision was by majority: his Lordship said nothing as to its correctness or the validity of the reasoning by which it was supported. That there were two eminently possible views was shown by the support for each by at any rate two members of the House. But doubtful issues had to be resolved and the law knew no better way of doing so than by the considered majority opinion of the ultimate tribunal. It required much more than doubt as to the correctness of such opinion to justify departing from it.

It might be that a result which caused property companies, which, as advised by their accountants, capitalized interest on investments or development, to suffer fiscally as compared with those who charged their interest payments to revenue, or, perhaps more accurately, did not decline to capitalize them, was unjust or economically unsound. But the remedy for that did not lie with their Lordships. It was for the Revenue, not merely to rest on its victory, but to consider the broad merits or otherwise of the result, after such representations as the affected taxpayers might make. His Lordship suggested that their Lordships had no alternative but to dismiss the appeal.

VISCOUNT DILHORNE, concurring, said that before the Chancery Lane decision, the consequences of capitalizing interest payments might not have been appreciated. Since that decision companies had been free, as they were before it, to decide whether or not to capitalize. If they did, there was the certainty that they would have to account to the Revenue for the tax deducted. It would be a considerable extension of what was intended in 1966 if the House were now to entertain the present application and it would be destructive to a considerable degree of that certainty, the desirability of which was stressed in the statement of 1966 to which his Lordship and Lord Wilberforce were parties.

Lord Salmon agreed with the speech of Lord Wilberforce.

LORD EDMUND-DAVIES said that while the Practice Statement of 1966 was a welcome departure from the rigid rule of precedent previously prevailing, it also recognized that departure from an earlier decision on the sole ground of its being wrong was not of itself always justified. Some had feared that the new practice would effect revolutionary changes; but not Lord Reid: *R v National Insurance Commission, Ex parte Hudson* ([1972] AC 944, 966).

The appellant company sought the complete reversal of the *Chancery Lane* decision only 11 years ago on no grounds other than that it was wrong. It had not urged that although that decision might have been sound when delivered, circumstances had so altered even in that short period that a new and juster approach to the tax problem giving rise to the appeal should now be evolved and adopted. On the contrary, counsel had submitted that it was wrong when delivered and that nothing had since happened to make right today what was wrong in 1966. The situation was therefore quite unlike that which arose in *Miliangos v George Frank (Textiles) Ltd* ([1976] AC 443) where the House concluded that, consonant with the Practice Statement, it could and should depart from the decision it had delivered only 15 years earlier in *In re United Railways of Havana and Regla Warehouses Ltd* ([1961] AC 1007), because of the instability which had overtaken sterling and other major currencies and the procedures which had consequently been evolved by courts and arbitrators in this country to secure payment of foreign currency debts in foreign currency. His Lordship concurred in holding that the present appeal should be dismissed.

Lord Keith concurred with the speech of Lord Wilberforce.

Solicitors: Slaughter & May; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Court of Appeal

Damages to teach landlord a lesson

Drane v Evangelou

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Lawton and Lord Justice Goff

[Judgments delivered Nov 11]

For a landlord unlawfully to deprive his tenant of a roof over his head is one of the worst torts that can be committed. Where a landlord's eviction of his tenant is accompanied by outrageous conduct "exemplary damages can properly be awarded . . . to teach a wrongdoer that tort does not pay".

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by a landlord, Mr George Evangelou, against the judgment of Judge Lonsdale in Barnet County Court on September 14, 1976, awarding the tenant, Mr Anthony Malcolm Drane, £1,000 exemplary damages for breach of covenant for quiet enjoyment or for trespass in respect of furnished premises in Bowes Road, New Southgate, London, let on a weekly tenancy at £16 a week. Interest was awarded at 9 per cent from the date of the judgment.

Mr Edward Cousins for the landlord; Mr Anthony Eaton for the tenant.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that there was an unlawful eviction of a tenant of furnished rooms.

In August, 1974, the landlord, a leaseholder, had let a maisonette in Bowes Road to the tenant, who had his common law wife with him. The rent was £25 a week. On the tenant's application a rent officer, on October 8, 1975, fixed the rent at £16 a week.

When the couple returned home on October 14 the tenant found his belongings outside the back door. Some were damaged. The lock had been hammered in and the door bolted on the inside. There were four or five men and two women inside and a large Greek Cypriot was barring the entrance. The police were called.

The tenant took the matter to court, and an injunction was granted so that he could be restored to the premises. The landlord's appeal to the Court of Appeal in November, 1975, was dismissed.

Still the tenant could not get into the maisonette. He had to apply to the county court, which made a further order on December 19. The tenant was given a key which did not fit, and only after an application to commit the landlord for contempt of court did he eventually get back on January 1, 1976.

The tenant claimed "damages limited to £1,000". The judge said that such "monstrous behaviour calls for exemplary damages of £1,000". The landlord appealed.

It was said that, on the pleadings and in the circumstances, the judge was not at liberty to award exemplary damages; that punitive damages could not be awarded for breach of a covenant of quiet enjoyment. The judge, however, had said that facts amounting to trespass had been alleged in the particulars of claim, which was not limited to breach of covenant for quiet enjoyment.

It had been pointed out in *In re Vandervell's Trusts* ([1974] Ch 269, 321, 324) that it was the material facts that in general had to be pleaded and not their legal results. The claim here could perfectly well be considered in trespass.

Following *Broome v Cassell & Co Ltd* ([1972] AC 1027), by Order 18, rule 8(3) of the Rules of the Supreme Court a claim for exemplary damages had to be specifically pleaded in the High Court. But that rule was not one of "the general principles of practice" so as to come within section 103 of the County Courts Act, 1959. It did not debar a claim for exemplary damages in the county court, where if any point on it had been taken, it could have been met by amendment.

It was said that in civil actions damages were awarded by way of compensation and punitive damages should be avoided. *Broome v Cassell* had applied *Rookes v Barnard* ([1964] AC 1129) where Lord Devlin had said (p 1227) that "exemplary damages can properly be awarded whenever it is necessary to teach a wrongdoer that tort does not pay".

The sum of £1,000, it was said, *was far too high. In his Lordship's judgment* sums awarded by way of exemplary damages should not be subject to fine scrutiny. The case came within Lord Devlin's dictum. The appeal should be dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON, agreeing, said that to deprive a tenant of a roof over his head was one of the worst torts that could be committed. It brought the law into disrespect. It was surprising that the landlord had not been prosecuted for an offence under section 30 of the Rent Act, 1965.

Lord Justice Goff delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Griffinhoofe & Co; Pegden & Dubow.

Employment Appeal Tribunal

Discrimination over free rail travel

Garland v British Rail Engineering Ltd

Before Mr Justice Phillips, Mr L. D. Cowan and Ms P. Smith

[Judgment delivered November 11]

The railways' policy of not allowing the husbands of women employees to continue their concessionary free travel after retirement while allowing the wives of male employees to continue to enjoy the privilege, is unlawful discrimination on the ground of sex and within the meaning of the Sex Discrimination Act, 1975.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal allowed an appeal by Mrs Eileen Garland, of Castlethorpe, Milton Keynes, from a decision of a London industrial tribunal last February, that her employers, British Rail Engineering Ltd, had not discriminated against her on the ground of her sex.

Section 6(4) of the Sex Discrimination Act provides: "Subsections 1(b) and (2) [unlawful discrimination in the way of affording benefits] do not apply to provision in relation to death or retirement".

Mr T. R. A. Morison for Mrs Garland; Mr F. Marr-Johnson for the employers.

MR JUSTICE PHILLIPS, giving the judgment of the Appeal Tribunal, said that a male employee could obtain travel facilities for himself, his spouse, widow and dependent children and could continue to do so after retirement. Women employees received similar facilities, but after they had retired there were no facilities for their husbands, their widowers or children. The discrimination was one which bit after retirement.

Mrs Garland, who was not due to retire until 1980, claimed that the policy was discriminatory within the meaning of section 1 (1) (a) of the Act in that she was being treated less favourably than a man would be treated. It was conceded that it was discrimination within that subsection.

The next question was whether it was unlawful under section 6 (2). It was plain that it was. The employers had omitted to afford her access to a benefit which in like circumstances would have been afforded to a man. The controversy was whether, on the date of the complaint, there was any present discrimination as opposed to future discrimination when Mrs Garland retired. His Lordship was satisfied that there was present and continuing discrimination.

The important question which extended beyond the bounds of the present case was whether section 6 (4) applied to deprive Mrs Garland of her rights. It was of general importance in most fields of employment. The interpretation of section 6 (4) was considered in *Roberts v Cleveland Area Health Authority* (*The Times*, August 3, 1977). The question there was whether a specific retirement age fell within section 6 (4). The Appeal Tribunal held that "provision" was an intentionally wide word and covered all matters regarding retirement. It might be necessary to refine that description in the present appeal.

Mr Marr-Johnson said that "provision in relation to . . . retirement" in section 6(4) extended to every arrangement or scheme which manifested itself after retirement. Mr Morison contended that it had to be more narrowly defined.

The Appeal Tribunal concluded that the words could not have the wide meaning claimed by the employers. The mere fact that the effect of the scheme manifested itself after retirement meant that what was done was necessarily a "provision in relation to . . . retirement."

It was possible that what the Appeal Tribunal had said in *Roberts's* case was a little wide. Section 6(4) was directed to arrangements made by employers when making provision for the retirement of employees. There was a recognizable territory of things which did not come into that description, for example, the continued membership of an employees' social club after retirement and the privilege of being allowed to buy the employers' products at favourable rates.

It was necessary to see whether what was done was part of an employer's system for catering for retirement or merely a case where a privilege existed during employment which was allowed to continue after retirement. In the present case the arrangements were not excluded by section 6(4), and the appeal would be allowed.

The order would be that the Appeal Tribunal would declare that a distinction between concessionary travel facilities to which Mrs Garland was "entitled" and those to which comparable male employees were entitled constituted unlawful discrimination on the grounds of sex.

Leave to appeal was granted.

Solicitors: Russell, Jones & Walker; Mr Evan Harding.

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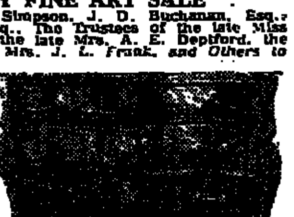

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NAZI ITEMS WANTED. Badges and flags, etc. £25 upwards paid for daggers and swords.—Ingles, 380 Carlton Hill, Nottingham. Tel: Nottingham 873335; evgs. 872406.

OLD CAMERAS WANTED for cash.—Vintage Cameras Ltd., 256 Kirkdale, London, SE26 4NL. Tel.: 01-778 5416/5841.

OLD TOY TRAIN WANTED. Bassett, Hornby, or any German make, also tin boats and cars, good prices paid. Proctor, 65 Buckingham Road, Brighton, 0273 25606.

ROLL TOP DESK wanted. East Anglia and Home Counties. Any condition. Tel.: Shottisham 348.

25 ORIGINAL Historic Newspapers (1680s to 1860s) £95; 12 issues The Times (1850s to 1860s) £19. Tel.: 0492 31195.

London & Suburban property

HAMPSTEAD HEATH 2 mins.' walk.—Spacious terraced house: 6 beds., 2 baths, 35ft. living room, cellar/workshop; secluded garden; all in excellent condition. Freehold, £45,000. Ring 485 3597.

London Flats

STOCKWELL, S.W.9
Purpose-built flat consisting of 4 rooms, kitchen and bathroom. Newly decorated. £8,500. Mortgage available.
Telephone Garliant Moran, 731 4177

CHELSEA, S.W.10
Spacious 3-bedroomed flat in small Victorian purpose built block in Kings Rd. Some modernisation required. £26,000 for 125 year lease.
01-584 8517
C.P.K.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PROPOSED ACQUISITION BY UNITED GLASS LIMITED OF REDFEARN NATIONAL GLASS LIMITED
[illegible]

BRITISH RAILWAYS BOARD NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that MERCHANDISE [illegible]

PASTORAL MEASURE 1968 The Church Commissioners have PREPARED a DRAFT REDUNDANCY SCHEME [illegible]

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

Ministry for Light Industry
Societe Nationale des Semouleries, Meuneries
Fabriques de Pates Alimentaires et Couscous
6 Boulevard Zirout Youcef, Algiers.

INTERNATIONAL INVITATION TO TENDER

SOCIETE NATIONALE SEMPAC INVITES INTERNATIONAL TENDERS FOR THE TURNKEY CONSTRUCTION OF THREE (3) FACTORIES FOR THE *PRODUCTION OF BABY FOODS.*

Interested companies may obtain tender specifications from 15 October, 1977, onwards from SN Sempac—*Direction de Developpement,* 25 Rue A[illegible] Mohamed (ex Rue de Suez), Belcourt, Algiers, against payment of DA 200.

Tenders accompanied by the appropriate documents and references should be placed in two sealed envelopes marked "Appel d'Offres—Unites d'Aliments Infantiles—Soumission—a ne pas ouvrir."

The final date for receipt of tenders is Thursday, 30 January, 1978.

TRANSFER BOOKS

THE NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA LIMITED
(Incorporated in the State of Victoria, Australia.)
Notice is hereby given that the REGISTERS of MEMBERS and TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED on 2nd December, 1977, for one day only for the purpose of payment of the final dividend on 19th December, 1977. Transfers must be lodged not later than 5 p.m. on 2nd December, 1977.
L. A. CRUICKSHANK, A.A.S.A., A.C.I.S. Secretary.

MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL

Financial—Thursday 17th November 1977. St. Helens Borough Council Bills—Issued 15 November 1977 £1m Bills due 14 February 1978 at 4¹/₃%. Applications £5m. Total Bills now outstanding £3.75m.

EDUCATIONAL

A FREE first-class secretarial training and full board for one year — See Non-Secretarial.

DIPLOMA in Television Studies. Television production and direction. Television Training Centre, 23 Grosvenor St., London, W.1. 01-629 5069.

G.C.E. DEGREE and Professional exams. Tuition by post. Free prospectus. W. Milligan, M.A., Dept. AJ1, Wolsey Hall, Oxford OX2 6PR. Tel. 0865 54231, 24 hrs.

CATERING SITUATIONS DOMESTIC AND

COOK/HOUSEKEEPER
Executive Guest House
A well-established national company invites applications for the post of Cook Housekeeper to supervise the successful operation of its guest house in Coventry, which normally operates on a five-day week basis.
Candidates, male or female, should be thoroughly experienced in household management and be able to effectively control a small number of domestic staff.
The appointment, which is superannuated, offers an attractive salary and a self-contained furnished flat is provided free of charge.
Please write with brief details to Box Number 0005 K, The Times

COOK/HOUSEKEEPER WANTED
Philipino or Chinese speaking living in cook housekeeper required to look after Englishman, with two children, occasionally. Knightsbridge house with own bedroom and sitting room. Salary £30 per week. Ring Mr Taylor either at his office on 839 8030 or at home on 581 0253

UNIQUE CATERING OPPORTUNITY
We need person or partners for good home-cooking on weekday evenings at The Centre for Young People at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square. We offer ready-made market. No capital outlay. No overheads. No salary. You keep the profits: proven experience and references essential.
Ring 930 2561 before 6 p.m.

MOTHER'S HELP for busy journalist's London house. Two girls 4½ and 1½. Weekends free. Start now. Minimum 1 year.—Ring 01-675 1767 after 6.30 p.m.

TRIPOLI—ATHENS, married couple with similar previous experience as Butler and Cook/Housekeeper for Government Minister and wife. Impeccable refs. for these highly paid and responsible positions. V.I.P. International Staff Consultants, 01-439 3901.

WORCESTERSHIRE.—Father and two cheerful girls, aged 12 (at boarding school) and 7, require kind housekeeper, experienced with children and able to drive. Happy country home. Live in or good unfurnished cottage. Other help.—Please write Box 0006K, The Times.

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

TASTE FOR ADVENTURE
Exciting job offered for Cordon Bleu or equivalent trained girl with initiative and a sense of adventure. Exclusive Tented Camp in the Masai Mara Game reserve in Kenya urgently requires a girl to supervise 5 cooks to produce really good food for 45 guests.
Return airfare paid salary and leave arrangements negotiable.
Apply in writing to:
MISS B. GREEN
GOVERNER'S CAMP
51 South Audley St., W.1.
Interviews to be held in London later this month.

MARRIED COUPLE REQUIRED
Kensington. Wife, housekeeper. Husband, butler handyman. Large self-contained flat, 2 bedrooms, large reception, bathroom, kitchen. Also in house chauffeur. Nanny and 1 child. Very little entertaining.
First class references required
937 2942

Exciting opportunity
to work in [illegible] months, begin January. 2 English girls to do cooking and light housework in private house. Own bedrooms and shared sitting room separate from other staff. 1 evening off a week, and every other week-end. Salary negotiable. References essential. Apply in writing to: Mrs. T. Butcher, 19 St. Swithin's Lane, London EC4N 8AD.

CHEERFUL COOK?
Permanent position offered from 1st January, 1978, to active single person or widow preferably over 40 as cook. Small family and occasional small parties, stately home in East Midlands close to beautiful market town with all amenities. Cheerful personality essential. Other domestic staff employed.
Comfortable centrally heated, easy to run, rent free cottage. Not suitable children or pets. Excellent conditions of employment including light heating and food. Remuneration by negotiation.
Please apply with details of previous experience and references to Box 0007 K, The Times.

EXPERIENCED ASSISTANT
Required to serve lunches in Partners Dining Room in modern offices in Strand area. Duties also include assisting Chef and Cook with preparation of food. Poise and appearance important. Age 25-35. Hours 9 a.m.-3.30 p.m. (5 day week). Salary up to £2,[illegible] p.a.
Telephone Mrs. Laidlaw, 01-836 1200.

MARRIED CHAUFFEUR/Mechanic, experienced private service, Norfolk and London. Very good 3-bedroomed house near school. Rolls and other cars.—Box 0002 J, The Times.

AU PAIR BUREAU PICCADILLY. World's largest au pair agency offers best jobs London or abroad with Social Travel Club facilities at 87 Regent St., W.1. 930 4757 & 525 Oxford St. W.1. 408 1131.

NANNIES/MOTHERS' HELPS!! Many excellent opportunities London area; about £50 p.w.—Apply British Empl. Agency, London Rd., Horsham. Tel. 65571. No fees.

REQUIRED

FAMILIES NEEDED.—Au pair girls available for Central London and other areas. Universal Aunts Ltd., 36 Walpole St., London, S.W.3. 01-730 9834.

AU PAIRS AVAILABLE.—[illegible] Agency. 940 6927 (before 1 p.m.).

ATTENTION ALL CHRISTMAS ADVERTISERS

This is the kind of response which The Times is getting from its Christmas Features.

Stuck for an original Christmas gift?
GIVE A CONNEMARA MARBLE WINE TABLE
This beautiful marble-topped table has a magnificent detachable, cast brass pedestal. Only £45 inc. p & p. Also available superb marble coffee tables, brass legged in two sizes. Telephone now Dublin [illegible] while stocks last. I.N.T.C. Ltd, Dublin.

Advert appeared on Nov. 5th. After one single column advertisement he has sold all available table

Our Christmas Count Down Runs for the next three Saturdays followed by a Special Christmas Bazaar Pull Out Supplement on December 3rd. If you have a mail order business or retail outlet contact us now on

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AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR COMPETITIVE ADVERTISEMENT RATES

هكذا منذ الاصل

Legal Appointments

NORTH DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL
District Administrator's Department

PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR

(Male/female)
Salary Range: PO2: £6,396-£7,074 plus Supplements

A Solicitor with management ability, experience and qualifications is required to take charge of our Legal Section, and to be the Council's principal adviser on all legal matters.

Particular duties will include:

Attendance at Council and Management meetings.

Giving advice to other departments and officers.

Acting for the Council at Public Enquiries, Arbitrations, Crown, County and Magistrates' Courts either in a prosecuting or defending role. Dealing with enquiries from the general public.

This post would suit a person looking for management responsibility which will stretch their professional ability to new limits.

We offer the normal Local Government Conditions of Service which include removal allowances and generous leave allowance, as well as the chance to live in this most attractive part of the country.

Previous applicants will be reconsidered.

Application forms and further details from: The Personnel Officer, North Devon District Council, Civic Centre, Barnstaple.

LONDON LEGAL BUREAU. Specialists to the Legal Profession. All levels of staff: Partners, Solicitors, Barristers, Legal Executives, Managing Clerks, Cashiers, Cost Clerks, Trainees, Legal Secretaries. London and rural. Vacancy list available on request. No fees to applicants. Ring 278 6897, 272-276 Pentonville Road, N1.

ALANGATE Legal Staff, the specialist consultants to the profession, offer a confidential service to employers and staff at all levels. Telephone for appointment or write to Mrs. Reinick, Mrs. Harkness or Mr. Gates, 01-405 7201, at 6 Great Queen St., London, W.C.2 (off Kingsway).

CLAYMAN EMPLOYMENT Agency (Legal division) have many vacancies readily available for solicitors and legal executives throughout the U.K. We shall be pleased to discuss your personal requirements in the strictest of confidence.—Phone 01-831 7622, 31/35 High Holborn, London.

ASSISTANT SOLICITOR to appear at Court and to deal with routine Litigation and Conveyancing. Partnership prospects. Salary and emoluments according to experience. Apply in writing to Senior Partner, Mayo & Perkins, 30 Gildredge Road, Eastbourne.

Conveyancer

Shell UK Oil have a vacancy for a Conveyancer to join a small specialist team in their Legal Department located in Shell-Mex House in London. You must have several years' current conveyancing experience and be capable of dealing with all aspects of commercial conveyancing with the minimum of supervision. In addition you will have an ability to understand and to contribute to the achievement of commercial objectives. The starting salary will be commensurate with your qualifications and experience but will be not less than £5800 pa. Assistance will be given with relocation expenses where appropriate. Please write giving full details of your career to date, or telephone for an application form to:
Shell UK Limited, Recruitment Division (T) PNEL/21, Shell Centre, London SE1 7NA. Telephone: 01-934 2495.

Shell

CONSUMER ADVISER

The post is for a Consumer Adviser whose first priority would be to deal with cases from Which? Personal Service members (a subscription based service run by Consumers' Association the publishers of Which?). This means that the ideal candidate would be recently qualified in civil law, should be capable of logical thought and have the ability to express such thought in lucid English. He/she should have an interest in and sympathy with people's problems and should be prepared to deal patiently with them.

The second priority is to give information and advice on a variety of both general problems and those arising from the work and publications.

After initial training, there are opportunities for specialisation and individual responsibility.

Salary is £3,154 a year plus Luncheon Vouchers, 5 weeks' annual holiday and Life Assurance and Pension Benefits. Please telephone the Personnel Officer on 01-839 1222 for an application form.

CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION, 14 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6DS

Assistant Company Secretary

Glacier Metal are a highly successful company producing bearings for a wide range of industrial applications throughout the world. Due to pending retirement of certain senior staff including the Assistant Company Secretary, a vacancy exists for a man or woman aged between 30 and 45.

Applicants must have a high degree of integrity and be able to bring a meticulous and systematic approach to a variety of projects. You should ideally be qualified to FCIS standard and have several years' experience in a company secretarial environment. Experience of legal affairs, gained in a solicitors' office, would be a definite advantage.

The successful applicant will be responsible for managing a small team of specialists and will ideally have experience of industrial, commercial and legal work combined with a general knowledge of pensions and insurance administration.

The commencing salary will be in the region of £7,000 p.a., depending on qualifications and experience.

Please write with full career and personal details to B. H. Paine, HQ Personnel Manager
Glacier Metal Co. Ltd., Alperton Road, Wembley, Middx. Tel: 01-997 6611.

GLACIER THE ASSOCIATED ENGINEERING GROUP

Tax Lawyer

City firm requires a qualified solicitor (or possibly a barrister) of proven experience to join our team of tax experts. They concentrate on corporate tax planning and are frequently involved in international work. The successful applicant will be entitled to a high salary and will enjoy a substantial measure of individual responsibility.

This is an opportunity for someone looking for a challenging and rewarding future who should apply with full particulars to:—

The Staff Partner,
Linklaters & Paines,
Barrington House,
59-67 Gresham Street,
London EC2V 7JA.

Solicitor

COMPANY LAW

We need a Solicitor with at least 2-3 years post qualification experience (preferably with a city firm) to deal with Company and Commercial work. The candidate must also have a sound knowledge of tax.

The range could include sales and purchases of varying complexity, reconstructions, banking, borrowing arrangements, pension schemes and work for Receivers and Liquidators. The post is for someone with reasonable experience and not for someone who needs training.

Applications to J. E. ROWLEY
EVERSHED & TOMKINSON, 10 NEWHALL STREET, BIRMINGHAM B3 3LX
TELEPHONE 021-233 2001

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM
MEDICAL SCHOOL

LECTURESHIPS AND RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN COMMUNITY HEALTH

Applications are invited from graduates in medicine, social science or economics, for two LECTURESHIPS and a RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP in the expanding clinical Department of Community Health in the Medical School. One of the lectureships is on the permanent establishment (Ref. 1) while the second is funded by the Health Education Council in connection with the Department's Master of Medical Sciences degree in Community Medicine (Ref. 2). The Fellowship is concerned with research into the provision and effectiveness of health services (Ref. 3).

Applicants, who should have an interest and some experience in one or more of the main branches of Community Medicine, will have an opportunity for personal study and research and to assist with the development of the new undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes of the department. They will also join the departmental Health Services Research Group. Honorary status (where appropriate) will be negotiated with one of the Area Health Authorities.

Salaries will be on the usual scales according to qualifications and experience. Appropriate arrangements will be made regarding superannuation.

For further details and application forms, please write to THE SENIOR ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL & MEDICAL SCHOOL, CLIFTON BOULEVARD, NOTTINGHAM NG7 2UH to whom applications should be returned by the 10th December 1977.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Research Associates in Nuclear *Structure Physics*

The University proposes to appoint two Research Associates in the Department of Nuclear Physics for a fixed period not exceeding three years (non-renewable). The successful applicants will be required to engage in research in experimental nuclear structure physics in the Nuclear Physics Laboratory in both term and vacation under the direction of the head of the Department. There are no specific teaching duties.

The annual stipend of the Research Associates (under review) will be according to age on the scale for University Lecturers from £3,333 (at age 24 and under) to £7,087 (at age 42 and over). The persons appointed will be required to pay contributions to a superannuation scheme as prescribed by the Statutes and Decrees of the University.

Applications (one typed copy), including a statement of qualifications, publications and the names of two referees, should reach Professor K. W. Allen, Nuclear Physics Laboratory, Keble Road, Oxford OX1 3RH, by 3 JANUARY 1978.

Appointments Vacant

GENERAL VACANCIES

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Does your Company think about the future? We're sure you do and appreciate the necessity of recruiting the best possible people to develop into future managers, executives and directors.

The problem has always been where to find these paragons—The Times has got the answer:

TIME: Thursday, 17th November.
PLACE: Career Opportunities from £4,000.
BOOKING OFFICE: The Times Recruitment Team.
01-278 9161

Don't miss your future—ring today for more information and to book your space.

FINANCE & ACCOUNTANCY

LONDON ADVERTISING AGENCY requires an

ACCOUNTANT

not necessarily qualified

Duties include credit control and supervision of prepared monthly accounts.
1 to 2 days a week.
Would suit retired person. Generous salary. Office in Euston area.

Apply in writing to Managing Director, Box 0018 K, The Times.

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IMPROVE Career prospects
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CHOSE subjects, courses.
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CAREER ANALYSTS
90 Gloucester Place, W.1.
01-935 5452 (24 hrs.)

GREAT OPPORTUNITY for young person, 18-20, as trainee with Investment Managers in City. Varied work with partners and excellent prospects for someone bright.—Phone Judy Farquharson Ltd., 01-347 1388: 7 Gresham St., London, E.C.2. (Recruitments Consultants.)

TRUST DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT, 20s, Investment Records, Accounts, Admin., from £3,500 p.a. Solicitors, W.C.2.—Stella Fisher Bureau, 110 Strand, W.C.2. 836 6644.

WELL EDUCATED individuals (16-21), for business/Commercial Careers.—Covent Garden Appts. 53 Fleet St., E.C.4. 353 7696.

EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHERS require fully experienced Desk Editor (Mid-20s) for Secondary textbooks, chiefly Science and Maths, up to A level. Books are dealt with from MS to finished product, giving a wide range of interest and involvement, and require all-round knowledge of sub-editing and production techniques. Write with full details to: Mr H. Jay, John Murray, 50 Albemarle Street, London, W1.

EXPERIENCED BOX OFFICE number One required for theatre, central London.—Salary negotiable.—Apply Box 0016 K, The Times.

FINANCE & ACCOUNTANCY

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£6,000

A rare opportunity has arisen in a prestigious E.C.3 based firm of Underwriting Agents for a recently qualified Accountant. A career position which offers substantial additional bonus scheme.
ACCOUNTANCY PERSONNEL (AGY)
63 Moorgate, EC2. 01-628 8525

SOLICITOR'S BOOKKEEPER £5,000

Prestigious firm of Solicitors in the Strand require a Senior Bookkeeper to take control of bookkeeping at Trial Balance level. Cash Books, Bank Reconciliations etc. Relevant exp. preferable. Contact
ACCOUNTANCY PERSONNEL (Agy.),
63 Moorgate, E.C.2.
01-638 8982.

OPENINGS at all levels in the profession.—Gabriel Duffy, Consultancy, Kensington. 01-581 0895.

SALES AND MARKETING

ECONOMIC Industrial Reviews seek 1st class Advertising Salespeople, based UK, selling to Europe and Middle East. Salary plus 15 per cent commission on sales. Photo and C.V. to Box 2938 J, The Times.

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exists for two persons not afraid of hard work who wish to quickly run their own sales organisation. £300-£350 per month salary plus substantial commission. Prospects of £18,000-£30,000 plus No Limit!

FULL PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Pensions scheme, etc., if resident within 20 miles of Wembley. Telephone now, Mr. Barnott 01-903 7919.

PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

University of Durham

TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP IN ENGLISH

Applications are invited for a Temporary Lectureship in English from 1st January 1978. The appointment will be for six months with a possible extension for a further six months.

Applicants should be able to lecture on Victorian Poetry and fiction and take tutorials over a wider range of literature.

The appointment will be made at an appropriate point on the Lecturers' scale £3,333-£6,665 per annum) together with the usual pension arrangements.

Letters of application (three copies), including the names of three referees, must be submitted not later than Saturday, 3rd December 1977 to the Registrar and Secretary, Old Shire Hall, Durham DH1 3HP from whom further particulars may be obtained.

PART TIME TEACHER (with music) See Part Time Vacs.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Bristol

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

IN THE FINANCE OFFICE

Applications are invited from Qualified Accountants. Commencing salary, depending upon age and experience, will be in the range £3,975 to £5,627 per annum (under review). Appropriate superannuation scheme. Further particulars may be obtained from the Finance Officer, University of Bristol, Senate House, Tyndall Avenue, Bristol BS8 1TH, to whom applications should be sent by December 5, 1977.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Bristol

MARINE TECHNOLOGY

The University wishes to appoint two

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

and to ward two CASE Studentships in the Departments of Civil Engineering and Mathematics. The posts have been created from funds awarded by the Science Research Council and the work would complement established research programmes in both departments and form part of the University's expanding Marine Technology programme.

1. Applications are invited from candidates with a good honours degree in engineering for a post as Research Assistant for an initial period of two years. The work involves the design and development of experimental facilities, and the execution of small-scale tests in a wave of on a submerged wave-energy device. *Preference will be given* to applicants with experience in the design and operation of mechanical and electronic devices. The starting salary will be in the range £3,701 to £4,403 p.a. (scale under review).

2. Applications are invited from candidates with a good honours degree in either engineering, mathematics or physics for a post as Research Assistant for an initial period of two years. The work involves an investigation of the forces imposed by waves and currents on oscillating cables, and is relevant to the design of tension and catenary tethered offshore structures. The starting salary will be in the range £3,761 to £3,975 p.a. (scale under review).

3. Applications are invited from candidates with a good honours degree in either engineering or mathematics for two CASE Studentship. These investigations will involve the study of the *mooring of ships* in realistic seas (jointly with the Hydraulics Research Station), and the study of methods of providing sea bed protection to minimise scour (jointly with the Avon Rubber Company).

All applications for these posts, together with curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of two referees, should be sent to the Head of the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1TR, from whom further particulars may be obtained, by November 30, 1977.

University of Aberdeen

RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL ECONOMY

Applications are invited for the above post to participate in a comparative study of oil taxation in a number of countries including the U.K., Norway, Canada, Australia and the U.S.A. (Alaska). The project is financed by BP. The post is tenable for one year in the first instance. Candidates should possess a good degree in Economics.
Salary (Range 1B) £2,904-£3,547 per annum (under review) with appropriate placing.
Further particulars from The Secretary, The University, Aberdeen, with whom applications (2 copies) should be lodged by 9 December, 1977.

NOTICE

All advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance of Times Newspapers Limited, copies of which are available on request.

CANADA

GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

HYDROGEOLOGIST

Environmental Management and Control Division, Department of Consumer Affairs and Environment, St. John's

Establishes groundwater data base including regional hydrogeological mapping, evaluating groundwater quality problems, local and regional groundwater systems and developing mathematical models. Assesses geophysical techniques for groundwater potential, administers water-well regulations, liaises with consultants and well-drillers, develops computer storage systems for groundwater data and assists Hydrologist in implementing hydrology programmes.

Qualification requirements:
Degree in geology with Master's Degree, preferably Ph. D. and 4-5 years in hydrogeological research including applications for remote sensing in groundwater investigations.

Closing date: November 30, 1977
This competition is open to both men and women.

Forward résumés to:—

Newfoundland Public Service Commission
16 Forest Road, St. John's Newfoundland, Canada A1C 2B9

EXPANDING COMPANY WITH OFFICES IN MAYFAIR IS LOOKING FOR A

SALESMAN

with experience in sales and marketing of Steel, especially flat hot rolled products. Applicants (male or female) should have a working knowledge of one or more European languages in addition to English, particulars including salary required, to:

Box 0019 K, The Times.

Management Centre
TOPS Course

MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT

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The Training Services Agency is prepared to finance a limited number of candidates to study full time for the Diploma in Accounting and Finance of the Association of Certified Accountants – at **Birklands Management Centre, St. Albans, Herts.**

Eighteen week course commences 30th January, 1978.

The aim of the Diploma is to enable professional people, other than accountants, to gain an overall knowledge of the principles of Accountancy, Management Accounting, Financial Planning and Finance.

The course of study concentrates on the interpretative aspects of accountancy and enables managers from non-accounting backgrounds to understand, marshal and utilize financial and accounting information as an aid to management decision-making.

To be eligible for enrolment candidates must be:

a) Corporate members of one of the non-accounting qualifying professional bodies; or,
b) be well educated (to pass Degree level) and have been firmly established in a business career other than accounting; or,
c) by experience have achieved a position of responsibility within management or in the Armed Forces.

The course is open to men and women, preferably aged 25 or over, who have been away from full time education for three years or more, have not had a TOPS course in the past five years, are unemployed or willing to leave their present job.

Tuition is free. TOPS tax-free weekly allowances are payable during training. Training expenses and/or a lodging allowance (where appropriate) may also be payable within certain limits.

For further information return the coupon to:
Mrs C. Spark-Jeffrey, Training Services Agency, District Office, 4, Dunstable Road, Luton, Beds. LU1 1DX.

Please send me details of the Certified Diploma in Accounting and Finance Course.

Name ____________

Address ____________

____________ Tel: ____________

06.C.223

MSC Manpower Services Commission

PARLIAMENT, November 14, 1977

Mr Benn sees Tory policy as being 'In search of strife'

House of Commons

Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, said that if he were really to identify the policy of the Conservative Party it might be properly called "In search of strife". During question time exchanges on the coal industry and its productivity, he said the Opposition were disappointed that there had been no conflict or confrontation between the Government and the mining industry.

He told Mr Hilary Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch, C) that overall production and productivity in the coal mines had not increased over the last three years. He had discussed this and other problems with the chairman and members of the National Coal Board and the mining unions on many occasions.

Mr Miller—What responsibility does Mr Benn accept following the Government's signature of the tripartite agreement ? In particular, why did he fail to give support to the productivity deal ?

Mr Benn—The answer to productivity in the mining industry must rest with those who work in the industry. As chairman of the tripartite committee which produced the plan for coal, I gave my support to the scheme agreed between the NCB and the National Union of Mineworkers.

Mr Kenneth Warren (Hastings, C)—Absenteeism is a major factor in declining coal production. Would Mr Benn have an urgent meeting with the chairman of the NCB to discuss the bizarre situation that Yorkshire miners picketing at Grunwick have been paid by the union to be absent from the coalface ?

Mr Benn—MPs or ministers telling miners how to produce coal is not effective. I would not be prepared to learn any lessons on how to handle the coal industry from the Opposition.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab)—Investment in coal mining has reached an optimum, there is going to be greater problems in trying to increase productivity unless there is a breakthrough on the technological front. We must therefore get accustomed to the fact that productivity is not likely to increase by any great amount whatever method is used.

There have been other ballots in the mining industry, in 1975 and 1976, which upheld pay policy at that time. The minority who were against it, including Mr Arthur Scargill and myself, had to accept the majority. Therefore we expect miners like anybody else to accept the majority in this case.

Mr Benn—There are geological factors which make productivity difficult beyond a certain point. Face productivity in the first 30 weeks of this year is up on the corresponding period last year. In Royston, a new pit, productivity is four times the national average.

Mr Peter Emery (Honiton, C)—In his discussions with the chairman of the NCB is he able to make clear that the Government are expecting the NUM to accept only a 10 per cent increase ?

Mr Benn—The Government's position has been made clear time and again. Mr Emery's disappointment is that there has not been a conflict or confrontation between the Government and the mining industry. If I were really to identify the policy of the Opposition, it might be properly called in search of strife.

Mr Tom King, Opposition spokesman on energy (Bridgwater, C)—Will Mr Benn use his position as chairman of the tripartite committee to do everything he can to try and achieve some element of productivity as is widely recognized in the industry to be possible ?

Mr Benn—Mr King made a speech yesterday in which he threatened to review the capital investment programme of the mining industry. Nothing could do more to worsen relations within that industry than to suggest that the country could do anything other than rely on coal.

Debate on firemen's strike

There is to be a three-hour emergency debate on the firemen's strike tomorrow (Tuesday).

The Speaker (Mr George Thomas) accepted an application by Mr James Sillars (South Ayrshire, Scot Lab) for a debate on the ground that there was a grave threat to public safety and the future of the fire service.

Mr Sillars said that the firemen were now on strike and the Government had honestly acknowledged that the armed services were not providing adequate fire cover. The population and industrial establishments were now totally exposed to risk. The morale and future of the fire service was also now at risk.

He submitted that they had reached the stage when the House must debate the unprecedented event of a national fire strike with all that it implied for the loss of life.

Conservative MPs fail to convince Speaker that devolution Bill is defective

Mr Graham Page (Crosby, C), on a point of order, questioned the validity of the Government's devolution measure—the Scotland Bill—which the House was about to discuss on second reading, and urged that it should be withdrawn.

He did so on the ground that the Bill did not observe rules laid down in Erskine May, and that the provisions of the Bill as printed went far beyond its long title which said that it provided for "changes in the government of Scotland and in the constitution and functions of certain public bodies".

He said it was a novel form of legislation and could not possibly be said to affect only changes in the government of Scotland. The legislation, which could be applied by order-in-council to the whole of the United Kingdom, was wide open.

There had been instances in the past where the Speaker had ruled that because a Bill went beyond the long title it should be withdrawn. It was clear that a Bill, as printed, must not go beyond the notice of presentation, which was the long title.

The Speaker (Mr George Thomas) said the provisions of the Bill made clear that the legislative powers which were proposed to be conferred upon the Scottish Assembly were in no way absolute. No power was conferred on the assembly to legislate for the remainder of the United Kingdom except in the context of action concerning devolved matters which related to Scotland.

The purpose stated in the title was to make changes in the government of Scotland. Since, as things stood at present, government was applied uniformly to Scotland and other parts of the United Kingdom, he did not think it was conceivable to provide that changes in the government of Scotland could in these circumstances have an incidental effect upon the government of other parts of the realm.

The important thing was that the second should be seen to be totally dependent on the first and this in his view was secured by the existing provisions of the Bill.

A relevant precedent existed in the shape of the Northern Ireland Constitution Act, 1973.

The title of that Act was to make new provision for the government of Northern Ireland. Yet although this made no mention of the United Kingdom, the provisions of the Act could confer powers for the making of orders-in-council, subject to the approval of this Parliament, to amend the law of any part of the United Kingdom.

Mr Ronald Bell (Beaconsfield, C) said that Clause 35 (Powers to make changes in law consequential on Scottish Assembly Acts) must be looked at carefully to see if it was truly consequential upon or dependent upon the main provisions. Neither in the Government of Ireland Act nor any other Act was there a general power given on the repeal of other statutes.

The Scottish Assembly might pass any Act at any stage within its competence. The Secretary of State might consider the new position and make, in respect of the United Kingdom or any part of it, any new law expedient to those new circumstances.

The mischief of this clause was that it was so widely drafted. Provisions such as those in that clause must appear in the notice of presentation.

Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton, C) said that Clause 1 (Effect of Act) stated that the provisions did not affect the unity of the United Kingdom or the supreme authority of Parliament to make laws for the United Kingdom or any part of it.

But it was the Crown in Parliament which made the laws, not Parliament on its own. If that was passed, the Royal prerogative was circumvented and there had been a change in the law-making process. That should be mentioned in the long title.

Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C) said that the long title of the Bill did not include the first item in Schedule 13 (Public bodies) which was the British Waterways Board. That was a nationalized industry and the long title did not extend to it because the board was not a public body, whereas the other items in the schedule were.

Mr Norman Tebbitt (Waltham Forest, Chingford, C) said some MPs intended to move amendments to grant certain powers of taxation to the Scottish Assembly. It might be expedient to take powers under Clause 35 to introduce orders into the Commons to reduce or change United Kingdom taxation if the assembly changed the Scotch whisky duty provoking a fall in sales in England.

A change in the law which would enable taxation of England to be decided or altered by order in council made the Bill out of order. The Speaker said that all the arguments were covered by what he had said. Erskine May stated that Parliament comprised the Sovereign, the Lords and the Commons.

Mr George Gardiner (Reigate, C) said that Clause 82 (Referendum) could not be said to fall within the long title for changes in the government of Scotland.

The Speaker said he could not with consistency rule that such a provision was out of order.

Bill aims to give greater scope for expression of Scottish identity: UK unity unaffected

Mr Bruce Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland (Glasgow, Craigton, Lab), moving the second reading of the Scotland Bill, said the four guiding principles underlying the Bill remained the same as those upon which the Scotland and Wales Bill of last session had been based.

The first principle was a respect for the diversity and distinctive traditions of Scotland and Wales—and the Wales Bill would deal with the Welsh situation tomorrow (Tuesday). The second was the conservation of the economic and political unity of the United Kingdom. Third, the continuing and unimpaired sovereignty of Parliament—which was what devolution was all about—and, fourth, fairness to the whole of the United Kingdom.

The Bill represented a major constitutional change. It was perfectly proper and sensible for the House to approach any major constitutional change with a good deal of care.

He hoped they would not approach the Bill as certain MPs approached the present Bill, on the basis that it really was not possible or all to change existing constitutional arrangements of the United Kingdom, that what they had at the moment was a perfect representation of the processes of government, and no change could be anything but the worse.

The kind of centralized government they had in the United Kingdom was not repeated among other Western industrialized countries.

The issue underlying the Bill had been before the House and the country throughout the life of the present Parliament and indeed very much longer than that. There had been interest in the subject of devolution for Scotland going back at least 50 years.

More recently, following the Kilbrandon report, the Government issued a series of White Papers which had examined and, to some extent narrowed, the issues. He did not believe there had been any major Bill produced in the House in recent years which had such a long history of detailed consultation both within the House and with interests outside.

As for official Opposition amendment, it was scandalous in the Scottish context, in considering Scottish opinion in particular, that at this late stage in the debate they should propose a continuation of talk, a continuation of discussion with no doubt the objective of preventing the House ever reaching a conclusion on this matter at all. The Government were determined the House should reach a conclusion. That was what the Bill was about.

If such constitutional changes were to be made, with all their implications, then change should be on the basis of giving any Scottish Assembly a worthwhile range of powers. It would be worse than useless, and damaging for the United Kingdom and of Scotland, if legislative changes were made for an assembly with limited capacity to take decisions and act on them.

The Conservatives had suggested there should be an assembly with no effective power to make decisions. That would be unacceptable to Scottish opinion and damaging. It would be preferable to do nothing than to introduce such a Bill. It would be a recipe for conflict.

If such changes were to be made they should have popular support. The evidence was overwhelming that the people of Scotland wanted more power to take decisions than they now had. Equally, they did not want separation or independence.

The Bill, like its predecessor, provided for a directly elected assembly with powers to make primary and subordinated legislation, arrangements for elections to the assembly and qualifications for membership.

An extensive range of functions was given to the Scottish administration, including most aspects of local government, health, education, social work and matters related to the physical environment. Those were matters domestic to Scotland on which decisions could be taken without damage or disturbance to other parts of the United Kingdom.

In dealing with functions and powers of government where there was a strong United Kingdom interest, such as economic and industrial powers, the Bill did not provide for devolution to the assembly. In the case, for example, of the Scottish Development Agency and the industrial functions of the agency, those would be carried out under guidelines laid down by the Secretary of State.

So there need not be any feeling within the House, as I understand there is still among certain MPs (he said) that any devolution of powers to Scotland must necessarily be at the expense of other parts of the United Kingdom. It is not so, in my view. What we are doing here is a considerable increase in decision-making in Scotland but I do not believe it will act to the detriment of the political and economic unity of the United Kingdom.

The new scheme provided for in the Bill would in his view considerably reduce the scope for dispute between the United Kingdom and the Scottish government.

However carefully lines are drawn between devolved and non-devolved matters (he said), there are bound to be circumstances in which the legally proper exercise of devolved powers may have unacceptable repercussions on matters affecting the whole of the United Kingdom. But the Government are anxious that the area of interventions shall be restricted to what is necessary in the interests of the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Bill had been redrafted to make clear that those powers would only be available where the activities of the devolved administration would adversely affect matters for which the Government would remain directly responsible throughout the United Kingdom, for example, defence, trade, the economy and industrial relations.

They will not, for example (he said) be used in relation to the "English dimension" of devolved matters such as health and education. The exercise of these powers will require the approval of Parliament.

They had simplified the operation of the scheme for new provisions for implementing European Community and other international obligations in devolved matters. Responsibility for implementation was now devolved but the Bill gave the United Kingdom Government concurrent powers to implement any agreement at their own hand if desirable or necessary.

At the end of the day (he said) this House can see that these international obligations are discharged but there is no intention of seeing they are removed from the Scottish Assembly completely.

The Bill contained a provision allowing for the premature dissolution of the assembly. It also incorporated the provision for a referendum which would be held after the Bill was enacted and must be held before it was brought into operation.

One of the criticisms of the previous Bill was lack of provision for any independent revenue raising power on the part of the Scottish Assembly. Considerable further thought had been given to that.

The Government had never, as a matter of principle, opposed the granting of marginal tax powers. There would be many advantages if they could produce a satisfactory marginal tax power for the assembly. In the White Paper, the Government had outlined the various tax powers

Our conclusion at the moment (he said) is that we remain convinced that there is no real alternative to the block vote system of financing the assembly. If we are to continue with the block vote, then it is important to make arrangements for its operation as satisfactory as we can. It is important that we try to reduce the area in which there may be argument between the assembly executive and the United Kingdom Parliament.

The Government recognized the need for good information about needs and standards of public service in the various parts of the United Kingdom during block fund negotiation.

They intended to consult the assembly about arrangements for setting up an independent advisory body to collect such information and advise the United Kingdom and the Scottish Assembly. It was to be hoped that the arrangement would make the methods of determining the block fund a good deal more explicit, and make fairness more demonstrable.

If the assembly wished to bring forward ideas about marginal tax powers, the Government would be willing to discuss them.

It would help the assembly, as well as the Commons, in the planning of public expenditure if they were able to settle levels of public expenditure in Scotland for more than one year by means of the formula system. This was something that would be provided for when the assembly was established.

There was a considerable danger in saying to the Scottish people that they must choose either between the status quo, or complete independence. The House should weigh the consequences of such a choice.

Our proposals (he said) are securely based on the continuing unity of the United Kingdom. I have no doubt that is what the vast majority of people in Scotland want. But within this continuing unity, there is room for diversity and giving greater scope for the expression of Scottish identity. That is also what the people of Scotland desire. That is what our proposals for political devolution are all about.

We propose, within the continuing union, to give the people of Scotland much improved democratic participation in making their own choice on matters which are primarily of concern to themselves. I believe that such a reform will strengthen the unity of the United Kingdom and that failure to make it could weaken that unity.

Too many questions remain unanswered

Mr Francis Pym, Opposition spokesman on devolution and House of Commons affairs (Cambridgeshire, C) moved:

"That this House, in pursuit of its aim to achieve a substantial improvement in the government of Scotland within the United Kingdom, declines to give a Second Reading to the Scotland Bill and instead calls on her Majesty's Government to summon a constitutional conference to examine defects in the parliamentary and administrative aspects of the government of Scotland, to recommend reforms including the creation of any new institutions it may find necessary, to consider the implications of its proposals for the rest of the United Kingdom, and to report not later than July next."

He said the Prime Minister and the Government had made much play of the fact that in their view the talking should stop, the Bill should go through and the people of Scotland should accept or reject it.

The Opposition opposed that proposition. It gave the impression that this was the only choice and it had to be made. It was not the only choice. Holding of a referendum, however desirable, was not a substitute for a proper choice nor was it a solution. A referendum did not absolve the House from considering this or any other constitutional proposal in great detail.

He observed from The Times today that Mr David Steel referred to the need to get the Bills on the statute book so that at least the Scottish and Welsh people had an opportunity to declare their views. The only view they would be able to declare was whether they wanted a bad scheme of devolution or not.

Whatever views MPs might have about devolution in one form or another in principle or in practice, there was no general sense of genuine support for making the changes proposed in the Bill. (Cheers.) There was a feeling of deep unrease in both major parties about the Bill. There were differences of view within them and within the minor parties and it would be surprising if it were otherwise.

There were too many unanswered questions, too many doubts to say that anything approaching a broad measure of agreement existed. It did not.

They should also face up to the politics of it. The stakes were high. The nationalist party was campaigning openly for the break-up of the United Kingdom and so long as this remained a free country they were entitled to do so. Few people agreed with them even in Scotland, but nevertheless they could slog away at that proposition until eventually they exhausted themselves in disappointment.

Conservatives regarded themselves preeminently as the party of the union. This was the area where the first major difference between them and the Government arose. The Government saw, or said they saw, no danger in the Bill for the unity of the United Kingdom.

They claimed the provisions of the Bill did not affect the unity of the United Kingdom. Maybe "no" expressly or directly (he said) but by implication certainly "yes".

Our gut instinct (he said) is that the consequences of this Bill, if enacted, will in the course of time damage the union and quite conceivably prove fatal to its continuance.

The significant fact was that the Government had not made it a confidence matter and they were right to do so. It was wrong to approach a major constitutional reform in a partisan and party political way. They had done it before and ought to have learnt their lesson by now.

In the bitterness of acute inter-party conflict no wise or enduring constitutional reform could be achieved.

The Conservative Party had long accepted that the status quo was not satisfactory and that a new method had to be found to meet the needs and circumstances of Scotland.

It was possible that one day the country might turn itself into some kind of federation. It did not want to do so now or in the foreseeable future. All the schemes that lay between federation and the status quo ought to be thoroughly examined and tested and the Opposition amendment set out how that should be done.

If (he said) we handle this important subject in a totally different way we could come to a practical solution of the problem in a reasonably short time. The conference we propose would have to consider the defects in the existing system, the reforms necessary to overcome them, and the effect of those reforms on the rest of the country and upon the House.

It should not take longer than nine months. The very fact of a constitutional conference would bring into focus the practical alternatives.

Because of the way it had been handled so far, the House had a thoroughly unsatisfactory Bill before it. It was a marginal improvement on the last Bill. Nevertheless, there was still an enormous number of defects in it.

The truth is (he said) this Bill will not bring government closer to people but bring still more government down upon people. For that they will have to pay a heavy price in extra millions of pounds a year. It will create another mini-Whitehall and Westminster, and will reduce the effectiveness of Scotland's voice in the Cabinet.

I do not believe the people of Scotland realize that the new executive will not be able to create jobs or reduce price, or anything like that. The Scottish executive is made subordinate to the Secretary of State.

On finance, the Government had indicated that they were prepared to devise a formula for allocating funds covering a number of arrangements, but those arrangements did not appear in the Bill, even though they were vital to the effective operation of the scheme. The House should be able to consider how it could work.

They were moving in Scotland under this Bill to single chamber legislation with all its faults. Scottish policies could be initiated in a single chamber in Edinburgh and then repealed in a few weeks by two simple votes in the Commons.

The central defect which remained was the implication for the Commons. It was simply this—after the Assembly was established members for Scottish seats would be able to vote on matters for England on which neither they nor any other member could vote for Scotland.

The Commons would have five different rules—one for Scotland, one for Wales, one for Northern Ireland, one for England and one for the United Kingdom, and all would be different. Only the people of England would have the whole range of their Government activities administered by MPs from every part of the United Kingdom.

That (he said) cannot be right. It cannot be stable. It cannot endure. That was the fundamental thing on which the original Irish Home Rule Bill foundered.

Every part of the United Kingdom should be governed on similar lines.

I agree with the Prime Minister when he said on December 13: "In our judgment we cannot have a country which is part federal and part unitary." And yet that seems to be precisely the course on which the Government now want to proceed.

This Bill was not the solution. The amendment was a positive and constructive proposal for breaking the impasse, for finding the best solution for meeting the special circumstances of Scotland.

It was infinitely more important to achieve a practicable and workable reform than to rush headlong into this reform in which the Commons, in its heart, did not believe. (Conservative cheers.)

Concern at high level of N Sea oil exports

Over the past year Britain exported nearly 40 per cent of the crude oil extracted from the North Sea, Dr Dickson Mabon, Minister of State for Energy, announced at question time. That was about 6 per cent above what the Government wanted, and they were trying to correct it. The state, however, did not control the export of oil, the oil companies did.

While the Government did not intend to let the oil companies market at will, international agreements had to be respected and observed, he said.

Mr Patrick McNair-Wilson (New Forest, C) had asked for details of the quantity and value of North Sea oil exported during the past 12 months and what percentage of it represented total oil lifted from the North Sea.

Dr Mabon (Greenock and Port Glasgow, Lab)—In the 12 month period ending on September 30 this year nearly 13 million tonnes of North Sea crude was exported, representing nearly 40 per cent of production in the period. The total value was approximately £750m.

Mr McNair Wilson—Those are staggering figures and I would have thought almost makes us eligible to join Opec.

Surely he would agree we have been told by successive ministers that these North Sea reserves would not last indefinitely and we must make the best use of them. They give us independence, so why on earth is there this enormous level of exports ?

Why are we not retaining this oil for our own use rather than selling it to other countries and denuding ourselves and perhaps creating a difficult future for Britain ?

Dr Mabon—I have sympathy for what he says. The Government do not go back on the statement by the then Secretary of State for Energy (Mr Eric Varley) of December 6, 1974, of the so-called two-thirds rule.

We are, it is true, almost 6 per cent above that figure and that is quite significant. We are determined, because of our continuing consultations with the oil companies, to try to get this corrected and in perspective. The participation agreements we are negotiating with the oil companies provide for consultations about marketing North Sea crude.

Mr Gordon Wilson (Dundee, East, Scot Nat)—In view of the Government's policy to keep within their own limits in the export of crude oil, is it a correct statement of Government policy to prefer oil companies to export as they will rather than encouraging them to invest in petrochemicals in Scotland ?

Dr Mabon—It is no intention of this Government to allow oil companies to market at will. But we have to respect and observe international agreements and we have to respect the concern of our friends in Western Europe, North America and Scandinavia to whom most of these exports have gone.

I am pleased to notice that in all parts of the House there is some feeling towards the idea of controlling our exports, by perhaps additional legislation. I look forward to the unanimous support of MPs if we have to do that.

Mr Hamish Gray, an Opposition spokesman on energy (Ross and Cromarty, C)—On the export of crude, and the fact that we are told we have an excess of refining capacity in this country, why have the Government with all the measures they have taken for control, allowed 40 per cent of the oil produced so far to be exported ?

Dr Mabon—I am disappointed with him. He knows a great deal about the subject, enough to realize we do not have control. The British state does not have control over these exports. If Mr Gray wants us to have control he should say so.

If he means we should seek to persuade the companies through participation agreements, or in some other way, to observe the two-thirds rule, that is precisely the Government's policy.

EEC seeks equal retirement age

European Parliament
Strasbourg

The Committee on Social Affairs submitted a proposal to the Parliament that it should ask the EEC Commission to insert a right of recourse to law for people in the countries of the EEC who felt that they have been discriminated against on grounds of sex.

The proposal was contained in a report by Mrs M. L. Cassanmagnago Cerreti for the Social Affairs Committee on the Commission's directive.

Mr Henk Vredeling, for the Commission, said that they would begin reporting from next February on the ways and means in which their directive was being implemented.

Mr Frans Van Der Gunn (Netherlands, C-D), chairman of the Social Affairs Committee, presenting the report in the absence of Mrs Cerreti, said that the committee believed the Commission was considering a narrow definition of social security in its proposal for equality of treatment for men and women.

They did not like the proposal that there should be indeterminate time for harmonization of treatment on the pensionable ages of men and women.

Mr Marcel Vandewiele (Belgium, C-C) said that in some matters, men were worse off than women. There would be difficulty for many member states in complete harmonization.

Mr Willem Albers (Netherlands, Soc) said his group would emphasize the necessity for the Commission to stick to the deadlines it had laid down for implementation of the directive. The Community should continue to play the leading part it had already taken in equal rights for men and women.

Mr Vredeling said that it was too early to impose deadlines on harmonization of pensionable ages, but this did not mean that they would be postponed ad infinitum. The deadlines which they had proposed had been criticized as being too far away, but that was precisely because of the difficulty of adapting some national legislation to the directive.

The committee's proposals will be voted on tomorrow.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons

Today at 2.30: Emergency debate on firemen's strike. Wales Bill, second reading. Motion on EEC document on seed and plant marketing.

House of Lords

Today at 2.30: Debates on EEC committee reports on classification, packaging, and labelling of dangerous substances and on unit pricing, prescribed quantities and foodstuffs. Debate on the police.

Rhodesia sanctions a symbol of Britain's determination

House of Lords

Lord Goronwy-Roberts, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, moved that the Southern Rhodesia Act, 1965 (Continuation) Order, which continues sanctions, be approved.

He said that pending the achievement of a settlement, for which there was a good chance, the Government remained bound by the relevant Security Council resolutions to maintain sanctions. It would be irresponsible to maintain sanctions. It would be irresponsible to attempt unilaterally to lift them now.

Sanctions symbolized the Government's determination to bring independence to Rhodesia through majority rule based firmly on the principle of universal adult suffrage. If they disowned this symbol it would finally put paid to their hopes of a political settlement.

The nationalists would regard it as a betrayal of their cause and be tempted to devote all their efforts to the achievement of a solution through violence alone. No one could foresee the end of this. Its consequences would not only embroil Rhodesia but possibly a far wider area.

Lord Carrington (C), Leader of the Opposition peers, said that for the Foreign Secretary to say publicly in Moscow that the British and Soviet Governments' intentions over Rhodesia's problems were the same was to carry the politeness of diplomatic language to a point where it called into question his credibility.

The greatest advance towards a solution would be agreement between the Africans as to who should be their leader and the acceptance of free elections to discover if this was the wish of the Rhodesian people.

That part of the Anglo-American proposals dealing with security was not likely to be acceptable to Mr Smith's government. It would be wise for the British Government to consider some kind of amendment to the proposals.

The Conservatives did not think sanctions were a sensible weapon. But was it sensible to suppose that the British Government could recommend removal just at the moment when the negotiations on Rhodesia were in a critical stage ? It would not be wise to oppose the order.

Lord Gladwyn (L) said the Government should make clear even now that if necessary they were prepared to receive a considerable number of ex-British subjects or people of British origin. Might it not make the settlers less desperate if they felt there was a possibility of a reasonable existence even outside Rhodesia if they had to leave ?

Nobody could be terribly optimistic about the situation. The Government should be clear about what they should do if there was some serious political development.

Lord Forester, in a maiden speech, said that in contacts with Rhodesia he had been told that distrust was rampant. He had been asked to look into Britain's real intentions and to cast light on what the Rhodesians believed to be the ambiguities and subterfuges artfully concealed in the White Paper. Trust was necessary.

Sanctions would be kept only if they knew what sort of settlement was envisaged. A permanent British presence in Rhodesia must be established if they were to retain some trust among the Rhodesian Government and the people.

The Marquess of Salisbury said it was true that negotiations were going on but they had been in progress for years. He could not see that there had been any improvement in the chances of a settlement by retaining sanctions. The contrary was true.

The Government had failed to make their case for the retention of sanctions which would not help to achieve a reasonable settlement and should be dropped.

Lord Alport (C) said that from the ethnic, political and transportation points of view Rhodesia could be divided into two: north and south Mashonaland, Manicaland, parts of the midlands and Victoria on the one hand and north and south Matabeleland with the rest of the midlands and Victoria on the other. Each had a major city—Salisbury in the north and Bulawayo in the south.

Control of security during the transition period would be much easier if the two parts of Rhodesia were separated. The resident commissioner as controller of the security forces and the headquarters of the United Nations force should be placed at somewhere like Gwelo, halfway between north and south.

It would be the responsibility of the resident commissioner to appoint as head of the interim administration in each of the two divisions of Rhodesia the man he thought most likely to command majority support. At the end of the six-month period separate elections for the separate constituent assemblies would be held in each of the two divisions.

From those elected and based on appropriate proportions of the parties elected to each of the assemblies would be chosen two delegations to meet under neutral chairmanship to work out a constitution for independent Zimbabwe.

Lord Brockway (Lab) said they had had many disastrous experiences of the division of territories. The Government would have to look carefully at proposals which might not only continue during the transitional period but, because of the intensity of feeling that would be aroused might find expression when Zimbabwe obtained independence.

Perhaps the greatest tragedy was the division in the African peoples and between the African leaders. He appealed to them to find a basis of unity.

Lord Balfour of Inchrye (C) said he and others feared that inevitably by the passage of events the Foreign Secretary was being driven down the road towards giving the green light to the Patriotic Front for their declared aim of a Marxist state. That was why he for one could not accept the motion.

Lord Paget of Northampton (Lab) said he was in general agreement with the views just expressed. Apparently Lord Alport proposed that they should not only surrender to the assassins but partition the country among them.

They could begin to look at the effects of sanctions. Economically these had been highly beneficial to Rhodesia. They had welded a fairly diverse group of immigrants into a nation and created a national spirit. Where they did great damage was to the cause of political advance.

The policy of this country towards Rhodesia, always ill-advised as the event had shown, had become preposterous.

Mr Smith should tell the British and the Americans that they were an irrelevant nuisance in that continent, were simply not wanted and were impotent.

The Earl of Cork and Orrery said sanctions were foredoomed to failure because Rhodesia was prepared to fight while Britain was not. Britain should seek an internal settlement and give Rhodesia the arms necessary for her defence.

Viscount Massereene and Ferrard (C) said Dr Owen should get his priorities right, otherwise he should not be Foreign Secretary. To disband the Rhodesian security forces and hand over to the guerrillas during transition would be madness. It would be handing the country over to the Marxists and there would certainly not be any elections.

Lord Hastings (C) said that since Mr Smith accepted the principle of majority rule there had been a power struggle among four African leaders. Whatever Mr Smith might say or do now was comparatively irrelevant.

Lord Coleraine (C) said the British people were strange and sometimes unbelievable. They fill their minds (he said) with Miss Worlds and Eurovision song contests and heaven knows what else. They turn their backs on genocide in Cambodia. But one day, if they discover that as a result of mistaken policies of successive governments there is massacre and revolution in Rhodesia and they suddenly wake from their slumber they will vent their feelings on those who have brought them to that pass.

He would vote against the order because he was not prepared to take that responsibility.

The motion was carried by 119 votes to 23—Government majority, 96.

House adjourned, 7.1 pm.

Mr Powell hopes measure will be destroyed

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, UU) said these were changes of the kind which if they were to be made at all should be made with as near full-hearted consent as could be achieved.

The Secretary of State for Scotland had been unable to explain what would be the function of Scottish MPs and the position of the House, with 71 MPs coming from a part of the United Kingdom where responsibility for a whole range of legislation was borne by elected representatives elsewhere.

The fact that that question had never been able to be answered was the evidence that the House was in this legislation attempting to do something which ran contrary to a principle established by common sense, experience and by endless debate. That was, that it was not possible within a unitary parliamentary state to devolve widespread legislative authority to an elected assembly in a part of that state, unless that state was to be resolved into a federation.

The supreme interest of the Ulster Unionists was in the maintenance of the unity of the United Kingdom for they did not claim to be a nation, they claimed to be a province of this nation. The Ulster Unionists, of all who came to the House, had a vested interest, perhaps greater than any, in the preservation of the parliamentary unit.

It was because they believed the parliamentary unit would inevitably be first eroded and then destroyed if such a measure as the Scotland Bill were to be forced into operation that they would, as in the last session, vote against the Bill at every stage until it was destroyed.

Mr Norman Buchan (West Renfrewshire, Lab) said a rejection of the devolution proposal must not take place in the House. It had passed from the House; it must be decided by the popular will in Scotland. There had to be an assembly starting in the knowledge that for at least the time being it would be able to work without the fear of separation. The question of separation must be dealt with by a second question in the referendum, and without it nothing would be solved.

Mr Russell Johnston (Inverness, L) said they now had before them a Bill for significant self-government which would work. It could provide a stable basis upon which an effective and responsible assembly could be worked out.

The Government had genuinely consulted and the result was a reasonably fair one. At the same time they had the steadily hardening position of the Conservative Opposition to any general acceptable form of devolution.

The financial arrangements in this Bill were better than in the previous Bill. There was a reduction of the powers of the Government to override the assembly, and there was a clear restriction to non-devolved areas.

Mr Gordon Wilson (Dundee, East, Scot Nat) said his party regarded the Bill as a first step along the road to self-government, and the Scottish people would regard it as a first step to obtaining national justice for Scotland.

The union may have started out as a partnership but for the last 70 years or so they had found that Scotland, far from being a partner, had more and more been regarded as a region or province. His party objected to the smug assurance that this House was a norm of good government and economic management. If there were any arguments in favour of that they had been demolished by the reduction in the standards of the Scottish people over the years.

If it was worrying to MPs that Scots MPs would, in the post devolution situation, be able to vote on English matters, his party would willingly support an amendment seeking to prevent Scots MPs from so interfering in the affairs of England.

Mr Tam Dalyell (West Lothian, Lab) said that under the Bill there was not the remotest chance of a settlement of a lasting nature between Scotland and England. The Bill was a stepping-stone to further changes. It was not a stable resting-place even for five or 10 years let alone centuries. The measure had no hope of lasting.

For how long would English constituencies and MPs tolerate 119 members—Scots, Welsh and Ulster—exercising an important and probably decisive effect on English politics, while they themselves had no say in the same matters in Scotland, Wales and Ireland ? Such a situation could not conceivably endure for long.

Mr William Craig (Belfast, East, Vanguard) said one of the reasons he was inclined to support the Bill was because it tackled a problem of a much broader dimension. There was a major need for parliamentary reform. There was growing disenchantment with how Parliament worked.

The essential power of government would still rest in the Commons. It would be foolish to exaggerate the powers of the Bill. There was too much bustle and bustle by the Government over the Bill, but no urgency over Northern Ireland. He would support the Bill because the principle of it was right, but he would do a lot of thinking between now and Wednesday.

Mr James Sillars (South Ayrshire, Scot Lab) said that Scotland needed an assembly and government with economic power and a share in the oil revenues. The Bill denied the assembly the right and the means to reverse the catastrophic trends which had been so obvious a feature of Scottish economic performance since the early 1960s. The only hope for Scotland was economic self-management.

It was the electoral prospects of the Labour Party and the shabby deals in the corridors of the Commons which had determined the character, role and powers of the assembly. Scotland was not being treated as a nation but as a political fiefdom to be manipulated to extract a tribute of seats towards a Labour majority in the next Parliament. The Bill was the least the Government calculated they could give without serious loss of support in Scotland and the most they could give without losing the guillotine on Wednesday.

Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith (North Angus and Mearns, C) said the Bill was better than the last with more of the elements of a federal structure in terms of devolution of powers. In that respect it was a step in the right direction. He hoped it could be improved in committee. He supported the second reading.

To his own front bench he said that paying lip service to devolution would no longer do.

I believe (he said) none of us as individuals or parties have the respect of anyone if we say we support devolution but oppose every practical step to try to bring it into effect.

Mr John Mendelson (Penistone, Lab) said there were general purposes and ideas worth supporting behind the intentions of the Government. But to implement such structural changes envisaged in the Bill, and to begin the process of a long-term improvement of the political system, there must be preconditions that such structural changes should be begun without illusions and that they must be carried out with the keen support of the majority of MPs.

Mr Robin Cook (Edinburgh, Central, Lab) said he would vote for the second reading of the Bill and for the guillotine. What he wanted to do was not kill the Bill but kill the issue. This could only be done in the referendum to follow the Bill.

Mr David Price (Eastleigh, C) said the Bill would be a divisive measure and he hoped the House would throw it out.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) said that there was no enthusiasm for the Bill in the House or in the country. Apart from the SNP nobody wanted it.

The Bill was highly dangerous because it was the first step towards breaking up the United Kingdom. Its central flaw was the role of MPs from outside England. He had been defeated at least three times on the issue in the party's national executive. He would continue to oppose devolution, but did not know if he was going to vote for the Bill.

Mr Leo Abse (Pontypool, Lab) asked how Mr Heffer expected to have credibility in a referendum campaign against the Bill if in the end he supported its principle.

Mr Heffer said some Labour MPs believed in their party and accepted its manifesto. Credibility meant loyalty to the party and the movement. It was his responsibility to help sustain the Government, at the same time urging them to change their view.

هذا من الاصل

"You'd think," he teased, "for £3650, they'd have concealed the screws."

"Actually," I pointed out, "those tiny hexagonal screws, as you call them, are an intrinsic part of the design."

In any case, I thought to myself, they're bolts, not screws.

There were eight of them. In eighteen carat gold, locking the distinctive, geometric bezel to the face of the watch. Tightly as a porthole.

Royal Oak is a completely individual watch. Like many Audemars Piguet designs, its bold, uncompromising beauty owes more to function than to passing fashion.

For all my friend's flippancy, I could see he was fascinated.

As we spoke, his glance was continually drawn to the watch on my wrist. Its surfaces, linked together in perfect symmetry, glowed in the last rays of the sun as it set into an azure sea.

"I am reminded that the Royal Oak is water-resistant to a depth of 300 feet," I said steadying my grip on the hand rail as I watched the wake of the ship break into a million golden reflections.

"What is more," I resumed, "every Royal Oak has its own number engraved on the back. Not simply to show its exclusivity, but to provide a future indication of its history to its makers.

"So they will know at a glance not only when the watch was made, but also which craftsman assembled it, high in the Jura mountains of Switzerland.

"Polishing each part first with diamond paste, then with the pith from an elder tree and finally with the softest doeskin cloth."

"It must take time," my friend commented.

"Speed is hardly the purpose of the exercise," I replied. "Indeed, the cost of a Royal Oak watch is partly a reflection of the time it takes to produce such perfection."

"But why 'Royal Oak'?," he persisted.

"Originally," I explained, "the Royal Oak watch was designed in stainless steel and named after two British Royal Navy steel ships from the turn of the century.

"These were named 'Royal Oak' after the hollow tree where the future King Charles the Second is reputed to have found refuge from his enemies."

"Ah," he smiled, "a symbol of powerful force protecting a precious life within."

"A nice definition," I said "and having made Royal Oak from one of the strongest metals in the world, what could now be more natural than to make it from the most beautiful?"

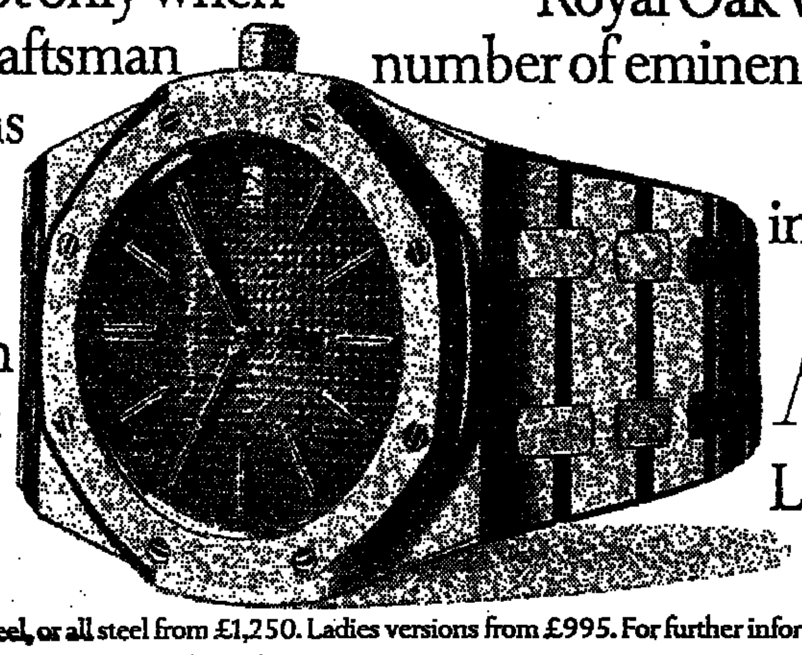
"I should like to compare them," he murmured, raising his eyes from my watch to the deepening glow on the horizon.

"Should you happen to be in New Bond Street," I suggested, "call at Asprey's. Or step across to Garrard's in Regent Street.

"Should Knightsbridge suit you better go to Graff in the Brompton Road.

"Royal Oak watches are stocked only by a small number of eminent jewellers.

"But then, they are only made in small numbers."



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The Royal Oak in 18 carat yellow gold or a combination of yellow metal and steel, or all steel from £1,250. Ladies versions from £995. For further information write to Audemars Piguet, 67 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RS.

Football

Keegan is involved in Greenwood's two problem positions

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

For the third and, officially, last of the matches for which he is responsible as *temporary manager* of England, Ron Greenwood will go his own way. That was the only guarded revelation from the team's hotel in Hertfordshire last night when Mr Greenwood was expected to announce his team for tomorrow's world cup match against Italy but said no more than *there would be new caps.* The Liverpool block experiment has certainly ended.

The reason for the delay was not a cause for concern over injuries nor a way of disturbing the Italians, Mr Greenwood said. Indeed, he would like to have named the team a long time ago, like Enzo Bearzot, *who said after* Italy beat Finland last month that he would not change his side. Yesterday, shortly after training at Wembley, Mr Bearzot confirmed that, *with the proviso* that if England surprised him with their choice he might change his.

Mr Greenwood said: "For the first time in a long while we have got 22 fit players all *raring* to go and that gives an indication of their determination." He wanted to spend more time reviewing certain position and to be fair to all of the 22 "best players in England". He had been impressed with their application. "Possibly this will be my last selection, so I want to make it the right one", he said, none too seriously.

"After seeing players in outdoor and indoor training today, I discovered I had one or two problems in the team I had in mind. Two positions have created problems and Kevin Keegan is one of the players involved."

The new caps could well be *Bonds, who would* mark Bettega, Coppell and Barnes, who can at last restore the art of using both wings, and Latchford. Only two players from Liverpool, who provided the basis of Mr Greenwood's two sides against Switzerland and Luxembourg, may be seen, the goalkeeper, Clemence, and Hughes. *If this is so,* England may have formulated a team with some imagination and balance but too late and against the wrong opposition. The need to score several goals against one of the best international sides in order to have the slightest chance of reaching the World Cup final competition in Argentina next summer will immediately put the team, whoever plays, under strain. Had Mr Greenwood been in charge earlier in the competition and been able to play a team of his own choice in a number of games there would have been a better chance of success.

In order to gain some benefit from what I expect to be a wide and full attack England must first gain possession, a simple fact that may take on larger proportions if the Italians play as well as they have in recent games. If, for instance, Bonds is fully occupied with Bettega and Cherry watches Causio the interception work could become the responsibility of Wilkins, who is a young player of immense ability but may not be able to stamp authority in midfield against such high class opposition.

England call-up is just an act of courtesy—Sexton

David Sexton, who has been invited to help England prepare for their World Cup qualifying match against Italy at Wembley tomorrow, was still in Manchester yesterday. "I have got gastro enteritis and will not be going down today", the Manchester United manager said. "I hope to join the squad tomorrow if the tummy bug clears up."

United have lost their last four league games and yesterday morning Mr Sexton was at their training ground helping sort out problems before Saturday's home game against Norwich City. Mr Sexton dismissed reports that he was wanted by England on a long-term basis, adding: "This week's involvement is really only a courtesy thing linked up with my position as England under-21 manager".

Mr Sexton, who has had charge of two England under-21 sides since Mr Greenwood took over England, had some good news regarding his injuries at Old Trafford. He said "Jimmy Greenhoff had a run out with the reserves on Saturday and came through with flying colours and Lou Macari is also well on the way to recovery from his ankle injury."

Tommy Docherty, the Derby County manager, hopes to sign Nottingham Forest's 22-year-old winger, Terry Curran, today. Mr Docherty has agreed to pay Forest £50,000. Leicester City are poised to sign Geoffrey Salmons, a striker from Stoke City, for £45,000

Last night's results

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Bath City 5, Kettering 0; Telford 2, Yeovil 1. First division, North: Kidderminster 1, Gloucester 2.
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Second round replay: Wigan Athletic 2, Gateshead 1 (abandoned after 77 min); Mossley 3, Netherfield 0; Runcorn 1, Altrincham 1.
TESTIMONIAL MATCH: Alan Goad: Hartlepool 2, Nottingham Forest 2.
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: First division: Harrow Borough 1, St Albans 3.
EUROPEAN JUNIOR TOURNAMENT (at Monaco): Soviet Union 2, Soviet 1; West Germany 3, United States 2.
RUGBY UNION: Cheltenham 0, Newbridge 16.

Bettega, pictured arriving at Heathrow yesterday, poses a serious threat to England's defence.

Italians rely on Antognoni to bury England's hopes

Carlo Antognoni is the man Italy are relying on to bury England's faint World Cup chances at Wembley tomorrow night. England need a big victory to keep their hopes alive and they cannot afford to allow the Italians to score. That is where Antognoni comes in according to the Italian manager Enzo Bearzot. He thinks the 23-year-old from Fiorentina is the man to poach a goal.

After arriving at Heathrow with his party last night an hour and 20 minutes late, the Italian manager said: "We expect to be under pressure so the quick break *will be vital. Antognoni has* the ability to turn defence into attack almost instantly and I think he is the man who could upset England." Mr Bearzot's main worry *is over-confidence because* the Italians know they need only a draw to take the into Argentina.

He said: "We know that the England players are in a better psychological position because they have nothing to lose. My players are calm and tranquil but we know we have a very hard match ahead of us. We must be calm but also competitive otherwise we might lose everything. This will be a match of containment as against Germany recently."

Italy lost that match 2—1 and a similar result against England would again leave them needing only a draw in their *final home* match against the part timers of Luxembourg. Mr Bearzot's confidence has increased since he heard that Channon is not in the England party. "He is the only English player I really fear. With so many younger players in the England squad I believe the England manager is looking forward and that is how it should be."

Since the Finland match, his team had developed a more positive and outgoing attitude, Mr Bearzot said. "Now we have players who are not satisfied with putting in just one goal."

More than 6,000 Italian supporters have booked on special charter flights to travel to London and watch tomorrow's game, which will be broadcast live on Italian television.

The match is a 92,000 sell-out. *This is* a drop of 8,000 on the terraces, after agreement between the police, GLC, the Football Association, and the Wembley authorities.

PROBABLE TEAM: D. Zoff, M. Tardelli, C. Gentile, R. Benetti, R. Mozzini, G. Facchetti, F. Causio, R. Zaccarelli, F. Graziani, G. Antognoni, R. Bettega. Substitutes: Castellini, Cuccureddu, Capello, Claudio, Sala, Pulici.

Macdonald charged for offence at Norwich

Malcolm Macdonald, the Arsenal forward, has been charged with bringing the game into disrepute by the Football Association. Macdonald *was sent off for striking* the Coventry City captain, Terry Yorath, at Highbury on Saturday—but the former England forward is being called to Lancaster Gate to answer the *charge made against* him after the match at Norwich on September 24. It is alleged that Macdonald made a gesture at a linesman.

The timing of the hearing is in doubt at the moment. The match referee, Raymond Toseland, of Kettering, is ill and will inform the FA *this morning* if he will be fit to travel to London for the meeting of the disciplinary commission, which is pencilled in for 2 pm today.

The commission will be headed by Vernon Stokes and their powers, unlike the present system of points for fouls and automatic suspensions, are limitless. Macdonald *is already due to miss the* match against his former club, Newcastle United, on Saturday at St James's Park as punishment for last week's sending off.

One player *certain to make an* appearance today is Southampton's promising young midfield player, Steve Williams. His sending off with Peter Osgood at Blackburn on November 5 *took* him past the 20 points total and so he is liable to a maximum three-match ban.

The commission will also deal *with Osgood, who is another to* exceed 20 points, but he will not be making a personal appearance. Neither will Gordon McQueen, of Leeds United, also a 20-point offender.

Frank O'Farrell, the consultant manager of the fourth division club Torquay United, confirmed yesterday that he has been approached by the board of Newcastle United and invited to become manager. Mr O'Farrell, formerly in charge of Leicester City, Manchester United, Cardiff City, and the Iran national team, said: "Initially the approach was through my chairman, Tony Boyce, and I have now met the Newcastle board and talked things over with them.

Today's fixtures

THIRD DIVISION: Portsmouth v Port Vale (7.30).
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnet v Cheltenham (7.30); First Division South: Andover v Dorchester (7.30), Trowbridge v Poole (7.30).
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Second round replays: Goole v Frickley (7.30), Matlock v Barrow (7.30).
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: South Liverpool v Workington (7.30), Stafford Rangers v Worksop (7.30).
F.A. TROPHY: Second Round Qualifying Replays: Cambridge City v Ilford; Bognor Regis Town v Wembley.
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Enfield v Croydon; Boreham Wood v Slough Town; Tilbury v Leytonstone; Woking v Sutton United.
RUGBY UNION: Leicester v Nottingham (7.15); Plymouth Albion v Torquay Athletic (7.15).
RUGBY LEAGUE: BBC Floodlit competition: second round: Castleford v Leeds (7.25).

Badminton

English officials plan to discuss the implications of IBF ruling

By Richard Streeton

The conflict in badminton *about* whether the sport should go open will simmer with new urgency over the next fortnight. The International Badminton Federation have issued a new ruling that direct contracts between equipment manufacturers and players must end by October next year. Meanwhile the *inaugural meeting* of the breakaway World Badminton Federation takes place at Kuala Lumpur in nine days time.

English officials have arranged a working lunch on November 30 with manufacturers to discuss the implications of the IBF ruling. It follows the Olympic recognition recently granted to the sport. The IBF have stipulated that contracts for endorsements can now only be made with national federations. They, in turn, would plough the money back into *the game itself.*

The leading players, predictably, are appalled at this development. The senior English players are drafting a round-robin letter for signing by everybody at next week-end's Northern Championships at Birkenhead. The letter is expected to remind the Badminton Association of England that most players want *open* badminton. The letter will make a plea *for* full discussions between them and the BAE.

The Kuala Lumpur meeting on November 24 will be attended by John Joiner, the English-based secretary of the Badminton Players' Association, which these days includes most leading European and North American players. The creation of the WBF arose in Asia, partly from the IBF's refusing membership to China, in favour of Taiwan, and partly over the *preference of its supporters for* open badminton to the less tangible benefits attached to Olympic recognition.

Both Mr Joiner and several English *international* players have confirmed to me recently that they only want to see the IBF acting realistically. Olympic recognition for badminton is considered an irrelevant issue. If the IBA recognized these facts, the need for the WBF to be informed, they believe, would become unnecessary.

At the *moment* the mood in English badminton remains friendly to what might be termed the established authorities. Now that rich commercial interests, represented by equipment manufacturers are embroiled in the issue, the pace will surely quicken. Badminton, like many other sports these days, is rapidly *advancing, one fears, to an* Armageddon not entirely *of* its own making.

Finally, two brief mentions on the purely domestic front. The BAE have appointed Nick Budibent, their first full time development and publicity officer. Mr Budibent, a former secretary of the Surrey Association, has been responsible in recent years on the BAE's national council for developing sponsorship for the sport. Secondly, everyone will be sorry to hear that Margaret Lockwood, the joint England No 1, has continued to have trouble with the knee from which the cartilage was removed last June. Mrs Lockwood sees another specialist this week but her return to competition seems likely to be delayed for at least two or three months. This effectively outs her out of England's Uber Cup side in the early stages of the campaign.

Cricket

Australians discuss future of game with players

Sydney, Nov 14.—The Australian Cricket Board announced today that it would meet players' representatives on Wednesday to discuss the future of the game. The board gave no detailed outline of the meeting, which is part of regular consultations between cricket officials and players. The Packer players are not involved because the board has banned them from official cricket.

Board sources said they would *like to* hear suggestions from the six players' representatives for improving cricketers' conditions and pay, and ways of competing with the Packer series.

The players' representatives, who are elected by members of the six state Sheffield Shield sides, are the Australian captain, Bob Simpson, the leg-spin bowler, Jim *Higgs,* the Western *Australian* captain, John Inverarity, the Test batsman, Gary Cosier, the South Australian captain, Ashley Woodcock, and the Tasmania captain, Jack *Simmons* (of *Lancashire*). The *Sydney Sun* reported today that cricket officials were concerned at the poor attendances for the opening matches played so far by the touring Indian cricket team.

The Indians, who play a five-Test series against Australia over the next three months in competition with the Packer matches, have failed so far to draw more than 5,000 spectators on any one day during matches against South Australia and Victoria. "The Tests doubtless will be a different story, but cricket is suffering a little from the loss of so many stars this year", the *Sydney Sun* said. Mr Kerry Packer has signed most of the Australian Test team which toured England

The opening match of the Packer *series, involving more than* 50 of the world's best players from Australia, England, the West Indies, Pakistan and South Africa, starts in Melbourne on November 24.

The match is a four-day trial between an Australian XI and a Rest of the World XI to pick the side for the six five-day matches, which will be played at the same time as the Indian tour.

The Australian cricketers involved in Kerry Packer's matches *this summer have gathered in* Melbourne for their first practice together. The 23 Australian-born players will leave their Melbourne hotel tomorrow for Moorabbin *near here for a pep talk and practice* until dusk.

The former Australian Test captain, Ian Chappell, told them tonight that the coming three days will decide the composition of the sides to play in the opening match of the series on November 24. Only the West Australian Rob Langer, who has commitments as a schoolteacher and will not be available until early December, was not at tonight's team gathering.

The South Africans, Eddie Barlow and Barry Richards, will also attend tomorrow's practice and Barlow will take up the vacancy left by Langer

Indian triumph as Victoria fall to spinners

Melbourne, Nov 14.—Srinivas Venkataraghavan and Erapalli Prasanna spun the Indian cricketers to a six wickets win over Victoria here today. Victoria, 143 *for* five in their second innings overnight, were all out today for 270, with Venkataraghavan completing innings figures of four for 93 and Prasanna four for 74. The Indians, left with a target of 130 to win in 185 minutes, reached 130 for four with time to spare.

Only the bowler, Trevor Laughlin, who hit 88 *not* out, made any impression on the Indian spin attack in Victoria's second innings. Timing his strokes well, Laughlin *hit six boundaries.*

Whatmore, 39 not out overnight, was dismissed for 45 in the third over this morning after putting on 41 with Laughlin for the sixth wicket. *Laughlin continued to* score freely, but the Indian spinners cut away his support at the other end to set up a winning position.

Callen, who added 47 in 61 minutes with Laughlin for the seventh wicket, fell for 17, and then Maddocks (17). Hurst (3) and Higgs (0) were dismissed in 40 minutes. When the Indians batted in their second innings, the fast bowler Hurst showed his Test potential in overcast weather and dismissed Vengsarkar and Amarnath. But Chauhan, who made 157 in the first innings, scored a steady 47 and Mohinder Amarnath hit 33 not out to lead the Indians to victory.

1979 championship programme may be increased to 24 matches

By Richard Streeton

English cricket returns to the twin tours format next summer for the first time since 1974. Pakistan, in the first half of the season, and New Zealand are the visitors, the same opponents, regrettably from one viewpoint, that England meet on their forthcoming winter tour. Both play two one-day Prudential Trophy matches before *full* scale Test series of three matches each.

The domestic programme retains much the same pattern as 1977 with 22 matches for each *side in the county championship,* although the Benson and Hedges groups have once again been reshuffled. There are again some blank periods during the summer for many teams, notably starting on May 17, June 21, July 22, August 6 and September 2. These arise partly from the later stages of the one-day competitions, but they bring a reminder that in 1979 the championship programme may be increased to 24 matches each.

A fixture for Young England against a touring team which was last played in 1973, when the West Indians were the visitors, has been restored to the calendar. In 1978 Young England will meet the New Zealanders in a three-day game starting on August 16 either at Leicester or Edgbaston. Some of the names in the 1973 Young England XI confirm the significance of this fixture: David Lloyd, Lumb, Hayes, Randall, J. K. Lever, Hend*rick,* and *Willis were among those in*cluded last time.

The first class season starts on April 19, though it has not yet been decided whether the traditional MCC match at Lord's against the county champions will be against Kent or Middlesex or a combined XI chosen from the joint champions. The John Player League opens on April 30 and the championship itself starts on May 3.

The Benson and Hedges competition begins on April 22. The country has been split in two—East and West—followed by a draw and the strongest group to emerge would seem to be the one comprising Essex, Surrey, Kent, Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire. The other three groups comprise Sussex, Middlesex, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Minor Counties East; Gloucestershire, Derbyshire, Warwickshire, Lancashire and Minor Counties West; *Hampshire,* Glamorgan, Somerset, Worcestershire and Combined Universities.

Pakistan play their first match on April 26 at Worcester. Their one-day internationals are at Old Trafford and the Oval on May 24 and 26 and the Test series starts at Edgbaston on June 1, followed by the second Test at Lord's on June 15 and the third at Headingley on June 29. The New Zealanders begin at Hove against Sussex on June 24 and their one-day internationals are at Scarborough and Old Trafford on July 15 and 17. New Zealand's Test matches are at the Oval, starting on July 25, Trent Bridge, August 10, and Lord's, August 24. The Gillette Cup final is at Lord's on September 2, and the closing round of championship games end on Friday, September 8.

First class matches

April

May

June

July

August

September

John Player League

April

May

June

July

August

September

Minor counties

May

June

July

August

Gillette Cup

July

August

September

Benson and Hedges Cup

April

May

June

July

SPORT

Tennis

Borg aims for fifth successive victory

John Feaver faces the top seed, Borg, in first round.

The Wimbledon champion, Bjorn Borg, aims for his fifth successive tournament victory in the £75,000 tennis championships sponsored by Benson and Hedges at the Empire Pool, Wembley, today. The 21-year-old Swede returns to competition after four weeks' absence.

Borg is favourite to win the event and the £14,500 first prize that goes with it would bring his 1977 winnings to more than a quarter of a million dollars. Nevertheless he is third in the race for the grand prix prize, one place behind the American, Brian Gottfried, whom he is seeded to meet in Sunday's five-set final.

Gottfried, however, has a worse draw than Borg, and will need to be in better form than he showed in Stockholm last week to survive to the weekend.

Borg's first match is against John Feaver, who, after years of patient waiting, finally made Britain's Davis Cup team last summer. Feaver is one of six British players, all internationals, in the tournament, and not one of them comes out with an easy first round match.

The top British player, Mark Cox, the sixth seed, opposes the South African, Bernie Mitton; John Lloyd takes on the American, Sandy Mayer, winner of the Stockholm grand prix on Sunday, and Roger Taylor clashes with the volatile young American, Billy Martin. Christopher Mottram tackles the American doubles specialist, Sherwood Stewart, and David Lloyd, the only British survivor from the qualifying tournament at the weekend, plays the third seed, Raul Ramirez, of Mexico. Ramirez could also provide the opposition for Mottram in the second round.

Gottfried, second so far in the grand prix chase for points and a huge fortune, has Ramirez, Cox and the former Wimbledon champion Stan Smith as the seeded opposition in his half of the draw. He should, however, have a gentle opener today against Jeff Borowiak.

DRAW: B. Borg v J. Feaver; A. Pattison v C. Pasarell; R. Moore v P. Fleming; O. Bengtson v H. Solomon; E. Dibbs v J. Kodes; W. Martin v R. Taylor; K. Richardson v V. Amritraj; B. Bertram v W. Fibak; S. Smith v R. Lutz; T. Okker v E. van Dillen; C. Mottram v E. Stewart; D. Lloyd v R. Ramirez; M. Cox v B. Mitton; J. Lloyd v A. Mayer; B. Teacher v F. McNair; J. Borowiak v B. Gottfried.

Doubt raised about Horton

Captain confirms worst fears

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Roger Uttley, England's captain and number eight, who has played no rugby this season because of continuing back trouble, has confirmed our worst fears by telling the selectors that he thinks it unlikely he will play at all this season. The blow falls none the harder for being expected, and the selectors, who have been prudent enough to think about contingency plans, now face the near certainty of finding a successor.

Additionally, Nigel Horton has declared himself available again, there must at least be a doubt in the minds of all those who have seen his new working routine in Toulouse whether he can retain fitness, enthusiasm and form to last the whole international course.

Horton, now busy speaking French in a thinly disguised Birmingham accent, is genial host at the Donjon bar in the centre of Toulouse. It is a job that keeps him on his feet until the early hours of the morning.

There can be little question, however, that Horton will be on parade when England begin their international campaign against France, in Paris, in mid-January. He played the match of his life against them at Twickenham last season, and they will not have forgotten it. The French still tend to feel inhibited at what they regard as the "Cathedral of Rugby," and thus, so to speak, to be mindful of swearing in church.

They spoke quite a different sort of language against New Zealand in Toulouse last Friday, and the beating they gave their opponents up front makes it more mysterious than ever that the Lions should have lost last summer's series, and underlines the problems that England will face in two months' time.

The French forward dominance was achieved without Bastiat and Rives, though England may take heart from the fact that it can be less daunting playing France at Parc des Princes in mid-winter than when a Paris spring is sprung. And the presence of four English forwards—Cotton, Wheeler, Beaumont and Neary—in the dominant Lions pack at the end of the series against the All Blacks is a further encouragement.

Tony Neary, deposed from the national captaincy last season and not even offered a trial—though he was recalled for the injured Rafter in Dublin and played thoroughly well—has added to his reputation in New Zealand. His performance in the Auckland international, and his leading of the Lions' pack, surely must put him back into English reckoning now. There can be no great confidence that England's selectors are so minded but, assuming that he is brought back on the open side flank, he would be another potential captain and/or pack leader.

There remains Fran Cotton, yet another former captain of his country, but his track record in this respect is no happier than Neary's, and the major problem with him may be merely to decide whether he plays on the tight or loose-head side. Although he performed with distinction at loose head for the Lions it looks as if he is destined to play in his club position for England. Yet again that would be bad news for Michael Burton, who remains one of the finest scrummagers in the business, and happier tidings for someone like Barry Nelmes, the Cardiff loose head.

If the selectors do not turn back to Dixon as captain, then they ought to consider the claims of another forward who returned from New Zealand with reputation greatly enhanced. This man is the Leicester hooker, Peter Wheeler. Many of rugby's outstanding captains have played in the front row, and did not Eric Evans, leading from the front, inspire England in a richly successful era in the late fifties? A combination of Wheeler, as captain, and Neary, as leader of the pack, should be worth thinking about.

If a player's poll were conducted on the best successor as captain, Peter Dixon should head it as being the one best qualified to analyse the strength and weakness of all concerned. However, the choice of Bill Beaumont to captain Sandy Sanders's XV against Paris University Club last month may be a different straw in the wind.

I think I have bowed to no one in my admiration for Beaumont as a man and as a lock forward ever since I saw him play a hero's part when winning his first cap against Australia in Brisbane in 1975. These days, of course, he has acquired a new stature by virtue of flying out as a replacement for the Lions and at once forcing himself into their formidable pack for the last three internationals. Though he is short on experience as a captain, I dare say he would become a good motivator. Yet it might be wiser to leave him, at least for a while, to concentrate his thoughts in other directions.

Although he has not quite got the physical presence of Uttley, I imagine that Dixon remains the selectors' senior "backstop" at number eight. If he were to play in that position, the choice of Rafter and Neary as flankers should be attractive.

Neil Mantell, with an excellent under-23 tour of Canada behind him, appears to head the official list of the younger candidates, but suffers from the disadvantage of being unable to play regularly as a number eight for his club, Rosslyn Park. Andy Ripley still has aspirations, though it is hard not to believe that his England days are done.

Nicholas Jeavons, of Moseley, and successor to Mantell in the England under-23 team, is another aspirant who is playing with increasing confidence and effect in excellent company. He is a fine ball player with all the right physical attributes, and it will be interesting to see how far he can progress this season.

It so happens that two more young players with the right qualities for the number eight position are both appearing regularly at lock. These are John Scott, the England under-23 captain, with Rosslyn Park and Devon, and Nigel Pomphrey with Bristol and Gloucestershire. Scott is an outstandingly good ball player, and Pomphrey for a big man is remarkably fast.

I believe the selectors may give Scott a run for his money at No. 8 in one of the regional sides to be announced next week. With Scott, Mantell and Ripley available, Rosslyn Park are not exactly short of No. 8's, present or potential.

Rugby Union

Warfield and Rogers in Steele-Bodger's XV

By Peter West

Peter Warfield, an England centre who for two successive seasons stood down from the Cambridge captaincy with a knee injury that seemed to put his rugby career in jeopardy, and Budge Rogers, the former record holder of English caps, now a national selector, have been chosen to play for M. R. Steele-Bodger's XV against Cambridge University tomorrow week. Angus Stewart, the London Scottish flank forward, who took over the Cambridge captaincy from Warfield is also in the side.

Warfield's knee let him down again in the Rosslyn Park trials this season, but since then he has played strongly and without ill effects for his club or for Sussex in several mid-week games. These days he is teaching theology and coaching rugby at Christ's Hospital. Rogers, who injured his back when playing for a "Golden Oldies" team on Sunday, has not appeared in a first class match since retiring at the end of Bedford's season in 1975-76.

There are seven internationals in Steele-Bodger's XV, the others being Hare, Wyatt, Wilson, Cowling (the Leicester and England prop who made a late start to his season) and Wilkinson; and the scrum half Lewis, was a Lions' replacement last summer.

Hare and Wyatt will also play against Oxford University on Thursday for a Stanley's XV that is even more powerful and star-studded with seven Lions and 11 internationals in all.

David Duckham is in the centre, and Burton will complete a formidable front row that also includes Wheeler and Cotton. England's selectors should also be interested in the performances of Field, the Moseley lock, and George, the Rosslyn Park scrum half.

MR STEELE-BODGER'S XV: W. H. Hare (Leicester); R. Grant (London Scottish), P. Warfield (Rosslyn Park), P. W. Dodge (Leicester), B. M. Wyatt (Bedford); R. L. Wilson (London Scottish), A. Lewis (London Welsh); R. J. Cowling (Leicester), D. J. Pickering (London Scottish), K. B. Cairns (Bedford), A. K. Rodgers (Bedford), R. M. Wilkinson (Bedford), G. Phillips (Northampton), A. A. Stewart (London Scottish), D. P. Rogers (Bedford).

STANLEY'S XV: W. H. Hare (Leicester); H. E. Rees (Neath), D. J. Duckham (Coventry), N. E. French (Wasps), D. M. Wyatt (Bedford); W. N. Bennett (London Welsh), I. George (Rosslyn Park); F. E. Cotton (Sale), P. J. Wheeler (Leicester), M. A. Burton (Gloucester), W. B. Beaumont (Fylde), R. Field (Moseley), A. Neary (Broughton Park, capt), D. S. M. MacDonald (West of Scotland), P. Anderson (Rosslyn Park).

All Blacks are without key players

Angouleme, France, Nov 14.—The New Zealand All Blacks, stricken by injuries to key players, meet a local selection in the last provincial match of their French Rugby Union tour here tomorrow. The All Blacks will be without three of their best players Wilson, Williams and Gary Knight—because of injury. Williams, who has been replaced in the tour party by Hegarty, an expatriate New Zealander living in France, flew home via London today. He dislocated a hip in the closing minutes of the first international in Toulouse on Friday, which France won 18—13.

The absence of Wilson and Williams leaves the New Zealanders with only one experienced goalkicker, the makeshift full back McKechnie, who failed with the boot on his first appearance as an international last week. The coach Jack Gleeson admits that kicking is now the touring team's main weakness. "What can we do with so many injuries."

ALL BLACKS: McKechnie, Ford, Taylor, Osborne, Wilson, Bruce, Greene, Eveleigh, Myers, L. Knight, Haden, Stuart (captain), Ashworth, Dalton, McEldowney.

FRENCH PROVINCIAL SELECTION: Pedoutour, J. M. Dubertrand, Pradere, Nadal, Durant, O. Hanel, M. Wilsattn, Donat, Fauvel, Peron (captain), August, Michel, Lescamel, Verswijler, Bernadet.—Reuter.

Olympic Games

Rhodesia and S Africa to be excluded

Moscow, Nov 14.—Rhodesia and South Africa will be excluded from the 1980 Moscow Olympics, the chairman of the Olympic Games organizing committee, Ignati Novikov, announced today. Mr Novikov, who is also the Russian deputy prime minister, was quoted by Tass News Agency as saying: "Our representatives in international federations will do everything in their power to drive racists out of all international sporting organizations and bring about their isolation. They actively support the policy of African countries in their struggle against apartheid."

Athletics

Race to be remeasured

Auckland, Nov 14.—Officials said today they would wait until next weekend before remeasuring the marathon course on which phenomenal times were set on Sunday.

Australia's David Chettle took more than six minutes off the previous world's best mark when he won in 2hr 3min 24 sec. Of the 36 runners who finished the course, 53 did it in 2½ hours or less.

Another Australian, Derek Clayton see the previous best time eight years ago in Amsterdam with 2hr 08min 33sec. Officials said no official record would be declared after Sunday's race because of difficulty in measuring the precise distance of 26 miles, 385 yards and six inches.

The race manager, Ian Gamble, said the course was measured before the race in a car with specially calibrated instruments.

"We will have to leave remeasuring until the weekend when there are no parked cars about", Mr Gamble said. During the race a policeman riding a motorcycle with a calibrated odometer measured the course and said it was about 656 yards short of the official distance.—UPI.

Golf

SAO PAULO: Brazilian Open: 274: V. Fernandez, 68, 67, 68, 71. 277: M. Pinero, 74, 69, 66, 68; L. Graham, 71, 67, 68, 70. 279: E. Darcy, 68, 71, 69, 71. 281: J. Simons, 69, 73, 67, 73. 283: N. Faldo, 72, 71, 72, 68; L. Ziegler, 70, 71, 72, 70; A. Gallardo, 70, 71, 71, 71. 285: J. Quinteros, 71, 72, 74, 69; G. Hunt, 73, 77, 66, 70. 290: R. de Vicenzo, 76, 71, 71, 72; P. Townsend, 72, 74, 69, 75. 293: A. Lyle, 76, 70, 73, 73. 297: M. Gregson, 73, 73, 73, 78. 298: D. Chillas, 75, 77, 70, 76; B. Reid, 75, 76, 72, 76.

Racing

Haydock given right royal treatment

By John Karter

National Hunt racing received an early and extremely valuable Christmas gift yesterday with the announcement of a new £25,000 handicap hurdle—the richest race of its kind. Sponsored by Royal Doulton, it will be run over two miles at Haydock Park on Bank Holiday Monday, May 1.

The Haydock event takes over from the Schweppes Gold Trophy at Newbury in February as the most valuable handicap hurdle in the calendar. And Royal Doulton, whose first venture into race sponsorship this is, do not stop there. Besides the £15,000 they are giving for the hurdle—to be called the Royal Doulton Handicap Hurdle, believe it or not—they are to give £2,500 to two other races on this mixed card, a handicap steeplechase for novices and a five furlong race for two-year-olds.

The Royal Doulton Hurdle has a weight range of 2st and no penalty will increase a horse's weight above 12st. Pat Firth, the clerk of the course at Haydock, said: "By restricting the weight range we hope to encourage the participation of better-class horses."

Certainly few owners and trainers of top-class hurdlers, including the winner of the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham in March will be able to resist the lure of such big money, even if their horse has endured a long and arduous season. It is perhaps premature to be even thinking about the winner, but with the likelihood of firmer ground than usually prevails at Cheltenham, the race could be just what the vet ordered for the speedy Sea Pigeon, whose Champion Hurdle aspirations have so far floundered in the mud.

But, nosediving from the heady munificence of May Day to the meagre morsels of a tepid Tuesday in November, the burning question in most people's mind is probably: "What will win the 2.15 at Teesside Park?" Glorying in the name of the John Jorrocks Handicap Steeplechase, this extended three-mile race is, with a penalty value of £862, the most valuable event on today's three cards.

Only four have been left in to pursue the fabulous sum offered, but three of these are useful, established handicap steeplechasers and a close-fought contest is likely. Sir Garnet, Collingwood and Hidden Value are the three in question and they, together with Trevino, the only other runner today, met at Doncaster earlier this month. Then, Hidden Value won easily by five lengths from Collingwood, with Trevino fifth and Sir Garnet a well-beaten last of six.

Hidden Value is worse off at the weights with his rivals now, but he won in such style that he could well confirm the form. Collingwood is so game and consistent that he will always be difficult to beat in this sort of company, but his front-running style could be ideal for Hidden Value's jockey to wait and pounce towards the finish. Sir Garnet was one of the best handicappers in the north last season when he won three times. On that form he would probably win, but he may need another race or two to bring him to his peak.

Gordon Richards, the trainer of Sir Garnet, has sound prospects of soaking up the prize money of the next race on the Teesside card, the Mr Sponge Handicap Hurdle, with Confluence, already three times a winner this season. Confluence was unlucky in running when third to Jane Again at Hexham in his most recent race. This time he may have to give best to the lightly-weighted Hopeful Bloom, who ran promisingly when seventh to Holly Twist at Carlisle. Dangers abound in this open handicap, Igloo Fire and Katmandu being just two who catch the eye.

At Leicester it may be worth taking a chance with Double Negative against the likely favourite and former Gold Cup hope, What a Buck, in the Measham Handicap Steeplechase. Double Negative did not run at all badly in the Mackeson Gold Cup at Cheltenham recently. French Saint, who blundered away his chance at the last hurdle when third to San Patricio at Folkestone, could be another to upset a favourite when he takes on the Windsor winner, Strong Hand, in the second division of the Beginners' Novices' Hurdle.

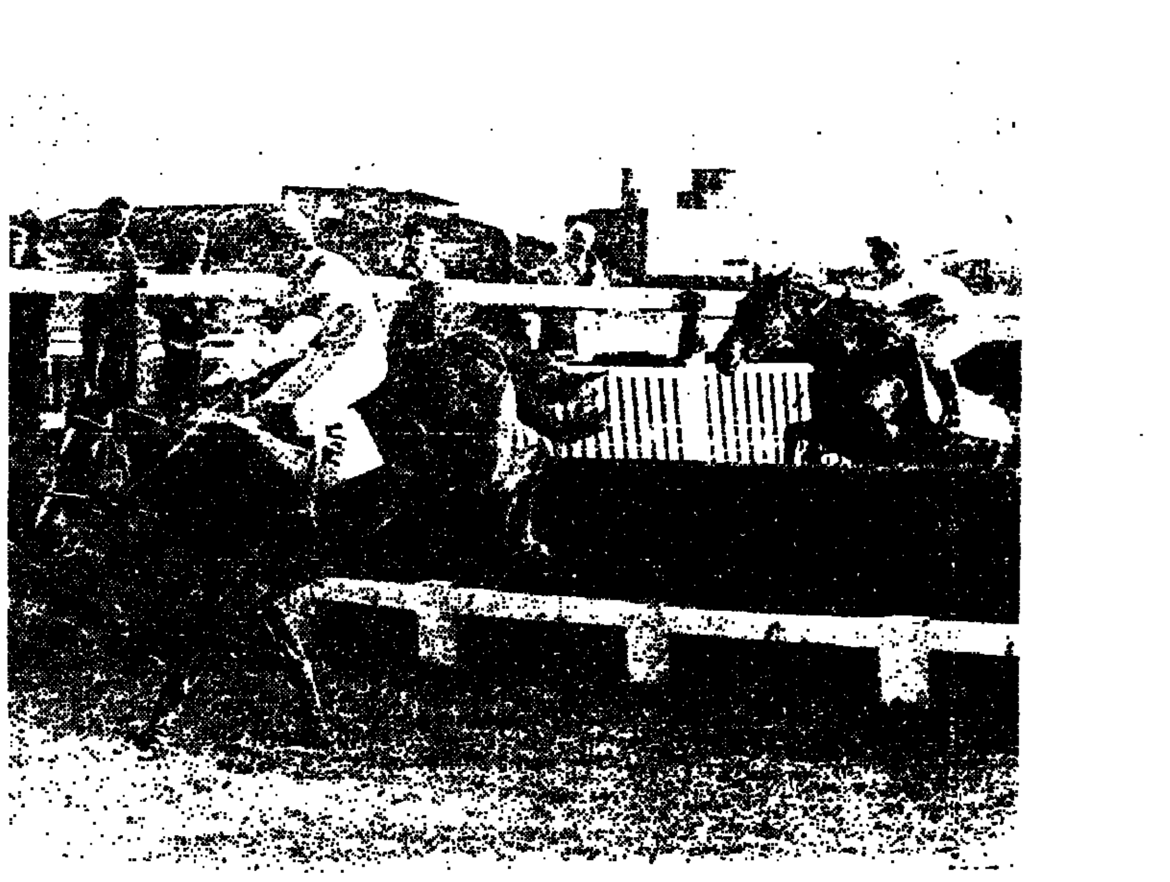
STATE OF GOING (official): Ludlow, good; Leicester, good; Teesside Park, good to firm. Tomorrow: Kempton Park, good to soft; Sedgefield, good to firm.

Pharly is champion

The champion racehorse of Europe in the Gilbey competition is the French-trained Pharly. Of the top 26 places, Gentilhombre and Dunfermline are the only horses bred and trained in Britain.

Tamalin fancied

Ladbrokes report support for Tamalin in their ante-post betting on the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup. Gordon Richards's charge is now 10-1 from 12-1.



After the Silver Fox: Aldaniti goes over the last fence chased by Lean Forward.

Aldaniti maintains Gifford's run

Winners are pouring from Josh Gifford's stable this season and Aldaniti, his Hennessy Gold Cup representative became the Findon trainers' twenty-second of the season by landing the Leicestershire Silver Fox Handicap Steeplechase at Leicester yesterday.

Aldaniti, who is set to carry only 10st in the Hennessy, a race which Gifford failed to win in his riding days, joined the pacemaking favourite, Lean Forward, turning for home with three fences to negotiate. Bob Champion took the seven-year-old to the front at the second-last fence and the combination had no trouble in drawing four lengths clear of the top-weight, Irelands Owen, who deprived the favourite of second place. Flitgrove was the only other finisher of the field of six.

Explaining that Aldaniti was the last horse bought by his father-in-law before his death, Gifford said "I had my doubts about him winning first time out this season, but he always runs well when he is fresh and Bob says he stays forever." He recalled that he won with the gelding himself at Ascot and that same night sold him to Mr and Mrs Nicholas Embiricos.

Gifford is likely to have runners in both the Black and White Whisky races at Ascot on Saturday—Kilbroney in the Gold Cup Steeplechase, provided the going does not become heavy, and Kybo in the Handicap Hurdle.

Kings Or Better, on whom John Burke rode such a good race to win the Bosworth Field Novices' Steeplechase, is a magnificent looking six-year-old, whom Fred Rimell thinks might make a Grand National Liverpool horse one day. "He's so big and bold", he said.

The bay dwarfed Cherry Lad, whom he tracked from the start of the three miles to draw level with him going into the last. On the run in Kings Or Better strode away to beat the pacemaker by seven lengths, with Jackstones another eight lengths away third. Rimell trains Kings Or Better, whom he described as still a "big baby" and a "man's ride", for Mrs Mary Curtis, whose husband John farms in Yorkshire.

Fred Winter brought off a double by sending out the last two winners, Pueblo and Double Bluff, both ridden by John Francome. Pueblo won the Thorpe Satchville Handicap Hurdle from Streakland and The Froddler. Double Bluff foiled a David Morley double by beating the favourite, Glissando, by seven lengths in the second division of the Stoughton Novices' Hurdle.

Morley captured the first division of the novices hurdle with the 6-4 on favourite, Crowning Issue, running for him for the first time since joining his Bury St Edmunds stable from Ireland during the summer.

Christopher Thornton, who took over Spigot Lodge on the death of Sam Hall and turned out 34 flat winners this year, gained his first jumping success at Carlisle yesterday. It came through Mister Geoffrey (3-1), who beat Master Milan impressively by three lengths in the first division of the Ambleside Novices Hurdle.

Mister Geoffrey is fast becoming a course specialist—he has twice won the Cumberland Plate.

Leicester programme

1.0 BEGINNERS' HURDLE (Div I: 3-y-o: £536: 2m)

1	312u	Leading Rose (D), D. Ringer, 11-3	S. McNeill 7
4		Ashen Light, Private, 10-10	—
6	4f0	Blackmore Park, D. Winle, 10-10	Mr A. Walthen 7
6		Cara's Trump, W. Stephenson, 10-10	S. Hives 3

1.30 BARKBY STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £323: 2m)

2.0 MEASHAM STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £668: 3m)

2.30 SILEBY OPPORTUNITY HANDICAP STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £620: 2m)

1	J3-2210	No Defence (D), D. Nicholson, 8-12-7	A. Webb
3	0p0400-	Culloville (D), T. Forster, 9-11-10	J. Marshall
4	10u2-00	Cotton Coon (D), T. Brookshaw, 7-11-10	P. Barry
6	130-	Frodo, G. Balding, 11-10-12	D. Ranger 3

6-4 Frodo, 2-1 Cotton Coon, 7-2 No Defence, 5-1 Culloville.

3.0 WALTHAM HURDLE (Handicap: £653: 2m)

3.30 BEGINNERS' HURDLE (Div II: 3-y-o: £521: 2m)

Ludlow programme

1.15 CORVEDALE STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £340: 2m)

1.45 CULMINGTON STEEPLECHASE (Novices: £437: 2m)

2.15 CLEEHILL HURDLE (Handicap: £838: 2m 1f 30yd)

2.45 BRIMFIELD HURDLE (Div 1: Novices: 3-y-o: £272: 2m 1f 30yd)

1	122240	Captain Midnight, Miss S. Morris, 11-3	E. Wright
2	0214	True Diver (C-D), S. Holland, 11-3	S. Holland
4	20	Busch, J. Haine, 10-7	R. Mangan
5		Celtic Heritage, E. Owen jun, 10-7	R. F. Davies
6		Drinnque, C. Miller, 10-7	D. Cartwright
8		Heron's Copper, J. Peacock, 10-7	R. Crank
9		Isobel's Choice, R. Hollinshead, 10-7	C. Astbury
11		Naval Victory, R. Edwards, 10-7	J. Francome
12	0	Paquita, Mrs A. McKinlay, 10-7	M. Soames 7
13	p	Penders Jacqueline, B. Cambidge, 10-7	Mr J. Cambidge 7
14	0	Prince Quay, M. Tate, 10-7	R. Hyett
16	020	Royal Audition, C. Dingwall, 10-7	D. O'Donovan
17		Swinging Safari, J. Edwards, 10-7	P. Blacker
18	4	Whinney Brae, C. Kindersley, 10-7	R. Champion
19		Windtail Penny, F. Rimell, 10-7	J. Burke

6-4 True Diver, 9-4 Captain Midnight, 5-1 Busch, 6-1 Whinney Brae, 12-1 Royal Audition, 16-1 others.

3.15 CLUN AMATEUR RIDERS' STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £825: 3m)

1	320010	Ross Royal (C-D), J. R. Peacock, 9-12-3	Mr C. Saunders
7	10-3323	Knock On, F. Rimell, 8-11-7	Mr E. Woods 7
8	0222-30	Langton Water (C), Miss H. Day, 8-11-7	Mr A. Harris 7
10	3f10b-4	Patronage, J. Edwards, 7-11-5	Mr J. Darlington 7
13	301-000	Wild Chorus (C-D), M. Wilesmith, 7-11-2	Mr R. Woolley 7
14	301-344	Sicilian Son, M. Tate, 10-11-0	Mr A. Wilson

5-2 Knock On, 3-1 Ross Royal, 4-1 Sicilian Son, 5-1 Langton Water, 8-1 Patronage, 10-1 Wild Chorus.

3.45 BRIMFIELD HURDLE (Div II: 3-y-o: £272: 2m 1f 30yd)

3	0	Alpine Call, W. Francis, 10-7	A. Taylor
4		Beau Weep, J. H. Peacock, 10-7	R. Crank
6		Firelight, C. Miller, 10-7	D. Cartwright
8	44	Hardwood Lad, R. Hollinshead, 10-7	C. Astbury
9	02	Jobs Mill, G. Balding, 10-7	R. Bailey
11	00	Miss Quay, M. Tate, 10-7	C. Smith
12		Perfect Fit, J. Tierney, 10-7	R. F. Davies
13	0	Polly Poole, C. Dingwall, 10-7	D. O'Donovan
14	00	Rib Law, J. Wright, 10-7	B. Evans
15		Thomsons Policy, J. Edwards, 10-7	P. Blacker
16	000	Welsh Hero, E. R. A. Jones, 10-7	—

4-6 Jobs Mill, 9-2 Hardwood Lad, 10-1 Miss Quay, Perfect Fit, 12-1 Rib Law, Welsh Hero.

Ludlow selections

By Our Racing Staff

1.15 King's Fling. 1.45 Coolafancy. 2.15 Invergayle. 2.45 Busch. 3.15 Knock On. 3.45 Jobs Mill.

Leicester results

Carlisle

Craig called before Jockey Club

The Scottish trainer, Tommy Craig, has been called before the stewards of the Jockey Club for the third time this season. Craig goes to Portman Square on Monday to explain the running of Mrs Walker in a novice hurdle at Perth on October 22.

The local stewards inquired into the filly's poor performance—after a slow start, she became tailed off and was eventually pulled up after the sixth flight—and not being satisfied with the explanation of Craig's representative, they referred the matter to higher authority.

Craig also saddled the winner of the race, Tangles Brother, a 5-4 on chance partnered by Michael Ennis. Mrs Walker was ridden by David Goulding, who is also expected to attend Monday's inquiry.

Teesside Park programme

1.15 MISS BELINDA HURDLE (Div I: 3-y-o: £340: 2m 176yd)

3		Brannigan, J. Dodds, 10-12	S. Charlton 3
5		Friendly Choice, J. Berry, 10-12	K. Gray
6		Fylfield, P. Poston, 10-12	Mr T. Bull 7
7	44	Gala Lad, J. Hardy, 10-12	N. Tinkler
10		Howe Lane, J. Calvert, 10-12	D. Munro
11		Kings Singer, M. W. Easterby, 10-12	C. Tinkler
12	0	Lizanna, J. Fitzgerald, 10-12	M. Lowry 5
14		Mixed Melody, G. Richards, 10-12	—
15		Mummys Rascal, T. Barnes, 10-12	M. Barnes
16		My Old Man, M. W. Easterby, 10-12	P. Maddison 7
18	0	Romany Light, J. Leigh, 10-12	J. Beaton 5
19	0	Tartan River, W. A. Stephenson, 10-12	W. Redfern

1.45 CHARLIE STOBBS HURDLE (Handicap: £272: 2m 176 yds)

2.15 JOHN JORROCKS STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £862: 3m 31yds)

2.45 MR SPONGE HURDLE (Handicap: £718: 2m 176yds)

4	2121-14	Igloo Fire, W. A. Stephenson, 4-10-10	R. Lamb
5	31122-4	Katmandu (C-D), E. Carter, 4-10-?	J. O'Neill
6	000211-	Hellbeck, B. Bousfield, 4-10-4	J. Goulding 7
9	1103-	Angel Clare, A. Dickinson, 6-10-2	B. Powell 7
11	02110-0	Slap Happy, J. Hardy, 4-10-1	N. Tinkler
12	131313	Confluence, G. Richards, 6-10-1	—
14	01124-0	Hopeful Bloom (C-D), W. Elsey, 4-10-0	G. Holmes
15	120-00	Candied Peel, K. Tuer, 6-10-0	G. Dowd 7
17	200024-	Field Moss, J. Twibell, 5-10-0	R. Lee 5
18	010003-	Estate Agent (C-D), M. W. Easterby, 4-10-0	C. Tinkler
19		Darling Eve, M. Camacho, 5-10-0	Mr D. Oldham 7
21	00040-0	Added Starter, R. Page, 5-10-0	Mr A. Page 5

100-30 Igloo Fire, 7-2 Katmandu, 9-2 Slap Happy, 6-1 Angel Clare, 8-1 Estate Agent, 10-1 Hellbeck, 12-1 Darling Eve, 14-1 others.

3.15 JAMES PIGG STEEPLECHASE (Novices: £760: 2½m)

3	3p1-21f	Forest Guard, G. Richards, 6-12-0	—
5	2033-04	Cala Llonga, J. Fitzgerald, 6-11-7	M. Lowry 5
7	f004-0	Devils Soldier, O. Brennan, 9-11-7	O. Brennan
8	001-002	Dux, N. Crump, 7-11-7	C. Hawkins
12	f0u0-00	Meads Manor, J. Berry, 8-11-7	J. O'Neill
13	0p-2pu2	Old Walter, P. Courage, 8-11-7	A. Dickman
15	2f-00p0	Chiquora, J. Turner, 5-11-4	K. McCauley
17	03?2?f-	Drumern, Miss B. Oliver, 7-11-2	Miss B. Oliver 7
19	044-400	Tully Town, M. Naughton, 6-11-2	Mr S. Kettlewell 7
21		Pickwood Knight, J. Leigh, 5-10-13	J. Beaton 5
22	3fp	Rajens Wish, T. Barnes, 5-10-13	M. Barnes

9-4 Dux, 11-4 Forest Guard, 4-1 Cala Llonga, 6-1 Devils Soldier, 8-1 Meads Manor, 12-1 others.

3.45 MISS BELINDA HURDLE (Div II: 3-y-o: £340: 2m 176yds)

2		Bakewa, W. Haigh, 10-12	P. Charlton 5
3	0	Chapel Close, R. Johnson, 10-12	B. Ellison 7
4	u	Dam Water, M. Naughton, 10-12	K. Milner 7
5	0f0	Gallery Royal, F. Dever, 10-12	C. Tinkler
7	3	Milk River, W. A. Stephenson, 10-12	R. Collins 5
9	0300	Northern Boy, B. Richmond, 10-12	M. O'Shea 5
10		Qualuz, M. H. Easterby, 10-12	P. Broderick
12		Silk Rose, N. Crump, 10-12	C. Hawkins
13		Simon Deal, C. Lamb, 10-12	R. Lamb
14		Terrington, M. W. Easterby, 10-12	P. Maddison 7
15		Thing O'Nothing, O. Brennan, 10-12	K. Gray

2-1 Milk River, 3-1 Qualuz, 4-1 Terrington, 6-1 Simon Deal, 8-1 Northern Boy, 10-1 Dam Water, 14-1 others.

Teesside Park selections

By Our Racing Staff

1.15 Romany Light. 1.45 Deependant. 2.15 Hidden Value. 2.45 Hopeful Bloom. 3.15 Dux. 3.45 Qualuz.

Leicester selections

By Our Racing Staff

1.0 Mr Playbirds. 1.30 Toughie. 2.0 Double Negative. 2.30 Frodo. 3.0 Ryhall Grange. 3.30 French Saint.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

1.0 Mr Playbirds. 3.0 Rilke. 3.30 French Saint.

Despite doubts, the Danes know the EEC gives them a good deal

Brussels

The staunchest and most effusive champions of the EEC, it is often noted, are its smallest members who see in the Community a means of retaining a say in international affairs which they would not have on their own. While that may be generally true, the Danes, who take over the EEC presidency from the Belgians in six weeks' time, clearly do some violence to this stereotype.

Indeed, in many of their attitudes to the EEC the Danes have more in common with the British than with any of their smaller Community partners. Although referenda in both countries produced substantial majorities in support of EEC membership, periodic opinion polls show that as many as half of their inhabitants remain stubbornly sceptical and disbelieving of its benefits.

The visitor to Copenhagen finds much the same popular dislike of the harmonizing and standardizing aspect of the EEC as in Britain, the same quickness to see a threat to native customs from a meddlesome, Frenchified officialdom in Brussels, and the same distrust of those, particularly in the Benelux countries, who would like to force the pace of political and economic integration.

Among politicians, even pro-Europeans like Mr Anker Joergensen, Prime Minister of Denmark's minority Social Democratic government, sound a distinctly cautious note. Direct elections to the European Parliament? Mr Joergensen is all for them provided the Parliament does not get ideas above its station. "It is only a place for discussion", he says. "Law making must remain a matter for national governments and national parliaments."

Similarly, neither Mr Joergensen nor his Foreign Minister, Mr K. B. Andersen, sees any future in trying to force majority voting on a reluctant Council of Ministers, though they both agree that the national veto has been used too indiscriminately. The aim of the Danish presidency will be rather "to promote acceptable solutions by consensus", and not to force invidual countries into a corner.

Like Mr Callaghan, Mr Joergensen has to contend with an influential anti-Market lobby within his own party which was strong enough at the last party congress to force through, against his will, a resolution calling for the establishment of a special committee to examine and report on the results of Denmark's EEC membership. About 14 per cent of the 179 seats in the Folketing are held by anti-Market left-wing parties.

Government ministers who represent Denmark at EEC meetings in Brussels are kept on a tight rein by a parliamentary watchdog committee whose considerable powers turn visiting Tribunite Labour MPs green with envy.

No Danish ministers can attend an EEC meeting in Brussels or Luxembourg without first seeking the endorsement of the all-party committee for the Government's negotiating position. Any significant departure from the agreed position has to be referred back to the committee for approval before the Government can commit itself to an EEC proposal, failure to do so could bring a no-confidence motion.

Comparisons with Britain should not be pressed too far. While in Britain pro-Europeans generally concede that the economic pros and cons of EEC membership were fairly evenly balanced, and made much play of the political case for entry, Danes of all political colours agree that there was only one good reason for Denmark going in and for staying in now: the common agricultural policy.

As a country heavily dependent on both industry and agriculture, which still accounts for 30 per cent of total exports, it is difficult to see how the Danes could get a better deal than they have now. Inside the EEC, they have access to a common agricultural market which embraces both of their principal customers, the British and the Germans, and at the same time they are members of a European industrial free trade area that now includes their old Efta partners as well.

Danish anti-Marketeers cannot seriously challenge this analysis, and this accounts for some of their shrillness, but they can exploit Danish temperamental dislike of the kind of organization the EEC is and reluctance to cut the Nordic umbilical cord. For its part, the Government cherishes the close links it still retains with its Scandinavian neighbours and openly encourages the Efta countries in their desire for a more intimate association with the EEC.

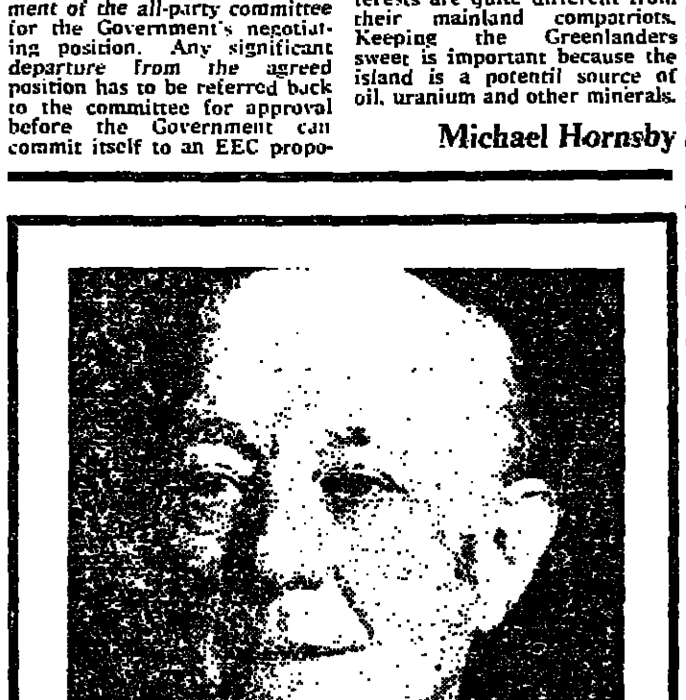
The Danes feel that such a development would balance the enlargement of the EEC towards the Mediterranean which is now under way. But they believe any concrete initiatives must come from the Efta side because of the delicate neutralist position occupied between East and West by Austria and Finland, an associate Efta member.

If there is ultimately no viable alternative to the EEC for most Danes, things appear rather differently to the 50,000 inhabitants of Greenland, the huge, largely ice-covered island stuck in mid-Atlantic some 2,000 miles off the coast of Western Europe, which is governed at present as a province of Denmark. It is a distinct possibility that in about two years' time the Greenlanders will vote to withdraw from the EEC.

A special constitutional commission is expected to recommend next spring that the Greenlanders should be given a home rule status similar to that of the Faroe Islands, which voted in early 1974 not to take up the option of joining the Community along with the rest of Denmark. In the national referendum of 1972, some 70 per cent of Greenlanders voted "no", but they were swamped by the overall "yes".

If the Greenlanders vote for autonomy, it is expected that they will then use their new powers to demand a referendum on continued EEC membership. Much will depend on whether the Danish government can negotiate satisfactory EEC arrangements to protect Greenland's fishermen, whose interests are quite different from their mainland compatriots. Keeping the Greenlanders sweet is important because the island is a potential source of oil, uranium and other minerals.

Michael Hornsby



"Help build a bridge over despair this Christmas . . ."

Sir Alec Guiness

. . . a bridge of hope from those of us who expect to enjoy all the good things of Christmas to those who will get none, neither at Christmas nor in 1978.

I am thinking of the old people existing in lonely isolation, near despair from lack of any human contact. And of hungry old folk near starvation.

The bridge you can help is real—Day Centres that provide a friendly meeting place here in our towns; and feeding schemes in countries where food is desperately scarce.

How You Can Help

Equipment for a Day Centre: £10 does a lot towards equipment for another friendly centre.

15 Good Meals for old people near starvation in Asia: £3.

£150 perpetuates a loved name on a British Day Centre and helps it start. Or a hospital bed overseas £100.

Someone lonely or hungry waits for your Christmas goodwill gift. Please use the **FREEPOST** facility and address your gift to: **Hon. Treasurer, the Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room T5, FREEPOST 30, LONDON W1E 7JZ.**

* *Please let us know if you would like your gift used for a particular purpose.*

Bernard Levin

Get the knives out, we're back to that Great British Disaster, the 'caff'

Ho, well now, you wouldn't expect me to keep out of the row between Sir Charles Forte and Mr Egon Ronay, would you? And who am I—ever the servant of my public—to disappoint expectation? So here goes, particularly since neither of the contestants has so far even mentioned the most important element in the matter they are discussing. Curiously enough, they have both refrained for the same reason, which is one of delicacy, an affliction from which, happily, I am altogether free. So we shall now inaugurate Plain Speaking Tuesday.

First, however, a summary of the story so far. In that corner, Mr Egon Ronay, the 1978 edition of whose hotel and restaurant guide has just been published. Mr Ronay includes a section on motorway restaurants and cafeterias, some of which are run by Trust Houses Forte. Of the 56 establishments examined, Mr Ronay's organization rates one as "Good", 14 as "Acceptable", 29 as "Poor" and 12 as "Appalling". On page 54 of the Ronay Guide he gives some of the general criticisms, describing the "food" served in these places, and he goes into more detail with each entry; out of consideration for those of my readers who take me with their breakfast I shall not actually quote the Ronay account of what he and his inspectors found; it is no exaggeration at all to say that the mere reading makes one feel decidedly sick.

To this assault Sir Charles, in the other corner, has replied; before summarizing his case, I am bound to point out that, although all the catering chains serving motorway food come out of the test very badly indeed, Sir Charles's are no worse than the others. Indeed, if you take as a criterion the proportion of each group's establishments which are either poor or appalling, Trust Houses Forte, with 11 out of 15, do slightly better than Mobil Oil (two out of two), Top Rank (eight out of nine) and Galleon Roadchef (five out of six), and only just worse than Granada (seven out of ten).

That, however, is all the comfort I have to offer Sir Charles. In praising motorway food standards in his letter to *The Times*, he gallantly undertook to mount a general defence, not confining himself to his own places; what is more, Sir Charles being a vigorous and unafraid scrapper (as anyone who has followed his admirable struggle against union intimidation at his establishments in Oxford and elsewhere will know), he acted on the ancient principle that attack is the best form of defence, and lambasted Mr Ronay for, among other things, using inadequately trained staff, and food-guide writers generally for being "self appointed" and for not being professional hoteliers and caterers.

Now Sir Charles had no case at all, and Mr Ronay, in yesterday's letters page, had no difficulty at all in disposing entirely of the strawless bricks flung at him. As he said, for instance, it is not criticism of disgusting food that puts off tourists; it is the disgusting food. And he didn't even bother to take up the point about food guides not being published by hoteliers and restaurateurs. On the whole, after all, it is a sound principle that no man should be a judge in his own cause, and I suppose Sir Charles would not argue that the voters should not be allowed to express their political views because they are not politicians, nor that a pedestrian has no right to protest about being run over because he is not a motorist. And, as I have myself often pointed out, you don't have to be a glazier to complain that the windows are dirty. "Who are you to criticize the food?" cried the restaurant proprietor indignantly; replied Groucho: "Who do you have to be to criticize the food?" And there I leave the argument between Sir Charles Forte and Mr Ronay, quite certain that the former is wrong beyond the hope of rescue, and the latter right beyond the need of it. What interests me is something different, which is, as I have hinted, at the root of the problem, and which neither of the contestants has so far discussed.

Sir Charles, as it happens, accidentally opens the bag in his letter, when he says that the assessment of motorway catering

> *is apparently at variance with a survey carried out by the Department of the Environment, which reported that 79 per cent of people using motorway service areas were satisfied with the food they received.*

In that single, appalling statement, which rings like a passing-bell as the coffin of hope goes by, is the nub and crux of the whole affair. Cheap British food is disgusting almost beyond imagination, and the natural tendency of people like Mr Ronay is to blame those who sell it; indeed, in his reply to Sir Charles, Mr Ronay even says that the remedy lies in the hands of the Ministry of Transport, from which the motorway concessionaires get their licenses, and which ought to "harry" them to do better. But the remedy lies in the very hands which carry the disease: those of the customers. The British are fed like pigs because they do not mind eating like pigs; indeed, a misanthrope like Mr Auberon Waugh would go further and declare that they actually *are* pigs, though to those lengths I cannot follow him.

The reason for this state of affairs is as yet undiscovered, and may be undiscoverable. But the briefest glance at standards in other countries shows how amazing the state of affairs actually is. The difference between an American sandwich and a British one, for instance, or an American hamburger and the native variety (at any rate the British-born, for there are American chains in Britain now which so far, I believe, operate on American standards, though I fear that in time they will be dragged down to our level) is, to put it with doubtless offensive plainness, the difference between food and filth. The difference between the food served at an English "caff" and its exact equivalent in Germany or Austria is likewise the difference not between two qualities, but between two entirely different sets of substances. A German, for instance, served a sausage in an average British cafeteria, would literally not know what thing it was that he had on his plate, and a Frenchman served soup in a similar establishment would ask his neighbour, in all seriousness, what he was supposed to do with the stuff, since it simply would not occur to him that he was expected to swallow it.

I must stress that I am talking only about cheap food, catering for those who cannot afford, or who (and the distinction is becoming increasingly important) can afford but choose not to, anything better. And I do not want to hear from those who had a perfectly delicious meal only last week in just such an establishment, or who had an entirely dreadful one the week before in one of the countries I have praised by comparison: of course there are many exceptions to any such general argument. But in general, British cheap food is the worst in the civilized world, and the service matches it. And the reason is that the customers put up with it.

Face facts, do; if you nerve yourself to complain about the revolting food, the squalor of the surroundings, or the incivility and incompetence of the staff, what is the worst part of your resulting ordeal? It is not the indifference or hostility of those to whom you are complaining, but the fact that all around you are your fellow-customers, thinking (and sometimes saying aloud) that *you* are in the wrong, and that the cold, greasy bacon, the eggs cooked in rancid fat, and the margarine-strewn slice of stale bread, represent a Lucullan banquet which you ought to be glad to eat.

And until your fellow-customers change their attitude, the food you are complaining about will remain what it is. I speak as one of those who are fortunate in being able to afford good food, but the rage that possesses me whenever circumstances oblige me to eat at the kind of place I am talking about is only secondarily caused by the threat to my digestion or even my life; its principal reason is the fact that millions of my fellow-countrymen have imaginations so narrow that they are willing to put up with what they are given, and what they are given is a disgrace.

I do not know how this state of affairs is to be changed, for although it is obvious that it will be changed when the customers insist that it shall, I can think of no way of persuading them to insist. There would be assault and battery in most of Europe, a lawsuit in the United States, and murder on a lavish scale in France, if somebody started to serve in those countries the cheap food that is found acceptable in this one. But here, the only sound is the champing of jaws on it, and the only action the passing of the ketchup-bottle. Sir Charles Forte is wrong to say that British motorway food is tolerable, for it is not. But Mr Ronay is wrong, too, to put the blame on the providers of it. Countries get not only the governments they deserve, but also the food.

Making sure overseas aid goes where it is needed

Overseas aid, now about £630m a year from this country, is taxpayers' money, so it cannot be removed from politics. And if there are aid advocates who wish to promote international egalitarianism by mulcting the well-to-do and productive, they must expect to be challenged by those who see things differently. Existing aid commitments and vested interests ensure that large-scale aid will continue for many years. But the means and the ends of aid policies require urgent reexamination.

Sustained Western aid has gone to governments which have pursued such policies as brutally enforced collectivization, compulsory mass sterilization, and the persecution, eviction and even genocide of ethnic minorities in Asia and Africa. Substantial British aid has gone, and some still goes, to rich Opec countries, as well as to many governments which have expropriated British assets.

Yet aid is demonstrably not essential to development and paradoxically often retards it. It would be best to finish as soon as practicable this system of handouts which harms patrons and often the patronized as well. But the immediate political task, albeit a second-best solution, is to consider how aid can be improved and its worst anomalies removed.

To begin with, aid should take forms which make it possible to identify its costs and its benefits. This rules out commodity agreements, because their results tend to be perverse and their overall impact impossible to assess. They raise the cost of necessities to very poor people in both rich and poor countries. And to increase prices, supplies have to be restricted by excluding potential producers, who are generally much poorer than those who benefit. Thus these schemes, designed ostensibly to help the poorest, in fact harm them. This form of aid also bypasses any budgetary control within donor countries.

Should aid consist of grants or loans? The practice of giving loans with long maturity and at subsidized interest rates conceals the very large grant element and confuses investment with handouts. These loans set up tensions between donors and recipients: the donors see them as gifts, while the recipients feel them a burden. These tensions provoke demands for debt cancellation. But this concession favours the incompetent or dishonest at the expense of those who honour their obligations. Neither result benefits the poorest. Loans are also open to various kinds of manipulation, such as interest waivers or maturity deferment, which inhibit the effective calculation of the amount of aid.

Again, aid in kind and tied grants confuse assistance to recipient governments with subsidies to industrial or commercial interests in the donor country. Recipients understandably suspect they are a means of dumping surpluses and exporting unemployment.

Aid should therefore take the form of grants. Should these be multilateral or bilateral, and to whom should they go? The advocates of multilateral aid argue that this is more objective, disinterested and effective, being unfettered by domestic pressures and parliamentary procedures of the donors. Donor governments do indeed have little control over the spending of multinational aid, and their taxpayers have none. But this does not make the process disinterested of objective. As for effectiveness, under multinational aid there is no contact between the donor taxpayers and their representatives, and the recipient governments. This further reduces such effectiveness as aid may possess for development, because contacts between the suppliers and the users of capital promote its productivity—as witness the multinational company.

Staff members of international aid organizations have distinct political, professional and personal interests. Most of their constituents are Third World governments, and they regard themselves increasingly as spokesmen for the Third World or even as part of its establishment. They press for persistent expansion of aid. They also favour preferential treatment of governments committed to extensive economic controls, as this suits both their own interests and those of their constituents.

Many officials, consultants and academics working with aid organizations are hostile to the market system and to the West. Thus Professor Bhagwati, a prominent and influential development economist, concludes his textbook *The Economics of Underdeveloped Countries*: "Indeed, for the idealists amongst us, the challenge of development represents today the kind of invigorating stimulus for sustained action that the Soviet revolution was for progressive opinion after the First World War."

There are indeed menacing prospects. Multinational aid is already becoming part of the campaign to equalise world incomes and living standards. This is the avowed objective of the so-called "new international economic order". But international egalitarianism involves large-scale coercion—and the wider the area over which this is attempted, and the more remote the coerced from those who exercise the coercion, the more intensive, ruthless and lasting the process must be.

And there are pacemakers at work. For instance, Dr Mahbub ul Haq, Director of the Policy Planning Department of the World Bank, writes in *The Poverty Curtain* (1976): "A major part of bargaining strength of the Third World lies in its political unity. This unity is going to be even more important in the struggle ahead."

If multinationalization is objectionable *per se*, the bilateral method has merits of its own. Wasteful or barbarous policies can be checked under a bilateral system, while the EEC has still to end its aid to President Amin.

The impact of official aid is at best marginal, and even this is all too easily offset by other factors, including the policies of the recipient. External trade, on the other hand, is an effective stimulus to economic development, the human and financial resources which trade attracts will be more responsive to local realities than aid can ever be.

During the past 100 years, external trade and the local response to it has transformed economic life in much of the Third World, notably South-East Asia, Africa and Latin America. The West could accelerate the process by relaxing its restrictions on imports from poor countries.

Tariffs obstruct international trade. The published rates of duty often understate their real impact. The effective level of protection may be many times the nominal tariff when the raw materials are duty free and the finished product is subject to duty. (GATT officials have estimated that a United Kingdom tariff of 10 per cent on copper wire represents a real rate of protection of 77 per cent for copper processing.) Imports are also restricted by quota. Britain limits the import of textiles, shoes and other Third World products in this way. Last July, imports of television sets from South Korea were abruptly cut from an expected 300,000 a year to a maximum of 35,000.

Protectionist measures obstruct profitable investment, frustrate employment and stifle economic development in the Third World. Yet they evoke little or no protest from the aid lobbies.

Why should this surprise us? Professional humanitarians dismiss those who can do without their ministrations. But this in turn raises the important question of the "morality" of aid, and the proper relationship between official aid and voluntary activity in this field.

Voluntary aid is paid for by people who freely give money to help others. Official aid is financed by taxpayers who have to pay up whether they like it or not. Aid crusaders habitually ignore this crucial distinction. Voluntary agencies are already active in the Third World—the religious, medical and technical charities, and the familiar disaster relief organizations—and many of them do invaluable work. They could do more, particularly by taking over tasks which governments have come to consider their own.

Take a recent contrast from Switzerland. In June 1976, Swiss electors voted in a referendum on a government proposal to provide substantial funds for handouts to Third World governments. The proposal was backed by the media, the churches, the universities and schools. It was heavily defeated.

Yet in the same year Swiss charities raised and spend 90m Swiss francs to help the Third World, more than one third of all Swiss overseas aid, and equivalent, on a *per capita* basis, of about £200m in United Kingdom terms. If the tax treatment of gifts to charity were liberalized in this country, and if it became clear that the relief of acute need was no longer part of official aid, similar results might well be achieved here.

Finally, how should official bilateral grants be allocated? We suggest that they should go to governments whose domestic and external policies are most likely to promote the economic progress and general welfare of their peoples.

Judgments in this area will be disputed on political grounds. Committed socialists may applaud current trends. We would sooner see the world's poor on a more hopeful course, with official Western aid concentrated on countries where humane leadership, effective administration and personal freedom can foster economic advance. We are sure it cannot be in the interest either of the West, or of the ordinary people of the Third World, that all should be engulfed by an international tide of totalitarian collectivism.

P. T. Bauer and Cranley Onslow

THE TIMES DIARY/ PHS

How Buildwas became Market Blandings

Some villages, like some men, have greatness thrust upon them. From this week, Buildwas in Shropshire is such a village and I only hope that it has the resilience to cope with the situation.

If it cannot, it can direct some of the blame towards this diary. Principally, though, it must take the matter up with a colonel living in Devon, for it was he who has identified Buildwas (three miles north-east of Much Wenlock: remains of twelfth century abbey) as the likely original of P. G. Wodehouse's Market Blandings.

And it was to compare PHS readers' perspicacity with the colonel's that I have been running a competition, the results of which I announce today.

Colonel Michael Croft is both a *Bradshaw* and Ordnance Survey specialist. Provided with PG's clues about the times of trains from Paddington to Market Blandings, he narrowed down the field until he was left with Buildwas.

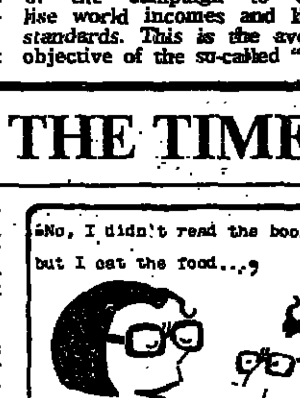
Only one reader, Pip Marks, of Saxon Road, Bow, London, E3, scored a bullseye, but four others peppered the target, and all five will be receiving copies of Wodehouse's last book, *Sunset at Blandings*—published on Thursday by Chatto and Windus—in which the colonel's report appears in full.

A military man, Colonel Croft must be used to the firing line. I fear he will attract a fusillade or two because of his finding that, to travel from Paddington to Buildwas (or Market Blandings), you would have to change at Wellington—and yet Wodehouse never made any mention of a connexion. I should tell you that the station at Buildwas was lopped by the Beeching axe in 1963.

As for the competition entries I received, some were minor masterpieces of deductive reasoning. One, from Martyn Freeth, a London solicitor, ran to 10 pages.

Most readers correctly located Market Blandings in Shropshire. Others placed it in Wiltshire, Worcestershire and Hampshire, and B. B. W. Goodden, of Twickenham, said he would have a lifetime's feeling of certainty shattered if the colonel disagreed with his belief that Hampton Loade, Bridgnorth, was the original of Blandings. A sad day, this, for Mr Goodden.

Copies of *Sunset at Blandings* will be sent to the very clever Pip Marks and to the almost-as-clever William Hardwick, of Burntwood, Staffordshire; George Piercy, of Norwich; R. J. Lonsdale, of New Malden, Surrey, and Tomchak Pinkerton, of Weybridge, Surrey



Shifting the burden of guilt?

It is good to know the Law Society pay attention to the Diary. Some weeks ago I tweaked their tails for classifying consumer protection as something they need to protect their business clients from; rather than a matter to advise their private clients about.

Their evidence to the Royal Commission on Legal Services explained that, when a revised qualifying course begins in 1980, consumer protection would be taught to aspiring solicitors under the heading "The Solicitor and his Corporate Client".

Now, guess what? Consumer law has been discreetly shunted out of the heading "The Solicitor and his Corporate Client". Instead it rests, where it belongs, under "The Solicitor and his Private Client".

May this repentance benefit the profession's image, the battered nature of which is currently being expensively polished by an extensive advertising campaign.

Jokes aide for the Prince

The Prince of Wales has a well-deserved reputation for making witty speeches. The Goonish sense of humour and other idiosyncrasies have indicated that he has written them himself.

Now pressure of oratory has made him take on a kindred spirit as speech-writer and researcher. He has gone for the best, employing Byron Rogers as part-time rhetorical consultant and teller of shaggy dog stories.

Mr Rogers, from Carmarthen, one-time reporter on *The Times*, is one of the funniest and most vivid feature writers in the word-business. He read English and did University Challenge at Oxford, schoolmastered for a time, became a columnist on *The Star* of Sheffield, before coming to Printing House Square. He has now become a freelance, writing regularly for the colour magazine of *The Sunday Telegraph* and other newspapers.

He has published poetry and short stories, and has a passion for medieval history and the oddities of life as well as for jokes. He has been working for years on a vast drama and verse epic of Owen Glendower.

His latest assignment has been a characteristic jaunt to the field of Agincourt with a long-bow to fire arrows at the phantasmagoria of his imagination. Readers will be entertained and instructed shortly. The Welshness of the tall, red-haired wit of Carmarthen will be an advantage to the Prince when he makes speeches in the Principality. The jokes will be an advantage on all occasions.

"Paw and Pay" outside a respectable, old-fashioned shop front in Bury Street, St James's has a raffish air more suitable for Soho. Nothing so exciting. The respectable, old-fashioned art dealers Pawsey and Payne have moved to new premises, and their sign is partially obliterated.

All embracing diviner

Sir Sacheverell Sitwell, survivor of the extraordinary literary trinity of Sitwells, is 80 today. He is off on his travels collecting more material for the poetry and poetry disguised as prose with which he has enriched and entertained us for most of this century.

His friends have contributed poems and pictures for a private birthday anthology. They range from John Betjeman to Ted Hughes and Samuel Beckett, from Henry Moore to John Piper.

In a preface they have an erudite simile characteristic of Sacheverell's own work, which embraces all arts and cultures: "Both Busoni and Sitwell are masters of sciomancy, the art of diving the future from the shades of the dead."

Ultra special war story

Ronald Lewin, the leading military historian, who today receives the W. H. Smith literary prize, 1977, for his life of Field Marshal Lord Slim, is already hard at work on another book.

For two years he has been piecing together a new account of the Second World War compiled in the light of "Ultra", the code name given to the intelligence yielded by interception and decoding of the enemy's most secret messages. Mr Lewin is one of a small band of scholars busy at the Public Records Office in Kew sifting through the first batch of Ultra papers released by the Ministry of Defence last month.

Until now, he has had to rely mainly on the testimony of old hands from Bletchley Park (where the German code was broken) and commanders who made use of it in the field.

He shrinks from making the judgment that Ultra was vital to victory. But he certainly believes that it shortened the war and in at least two episodes—the climax of the battle of the Atlantic against the U-boats in 1943 and the securing of a second front in the shape of a foothold on the Normandy beaches in 1944—it turned the scales.

Whitehall has a new vogue word. A couple of years ago, anything that did not match up with a bureaucrat's ideas was "bizarre". Then came "embarrassing". Anything that embarrassed ministers caused much pursing of lips among civil servants. Now comes "prudent". At two ministries, during discussions about the firemen's strike, three different officials used the word: the Government thought it "prudent" to have contingency plans. A nice word, prudent. Nobody could quarrel with a Government that is prudent—even if being prudent does involve calling in the troops.

هلا من الاصل

a Special Report

Moving up the table in Britain

by Pamela Vandyke Price

The progress made by Italian wines in Britain is a tribute to intelligent selling and publicity methods and resolute controls of quality at source. The British, loving Italian wines as "holiday" drinks or to accompany pasta in an inexpensive Italian restaurant in Britain, have adjusted slowly to appreciating them as good wines in their own right.

Many have been excellent accompaniments to British food, interesting even to the conservative lover of better known classics.

Ten years ago Italian table wines enjoyed little prestige. They were not the choice for the novice drinker entertaining an important business contact in a smart restaurant, or for the party at home where much skill had been expended in the kitchen and the wines were expected to impress the guests.

Today the position has changed and continues to do so. In 1976 Britain imported 282,724 hectolitres of Italian table wine compared with 28,125 hectolitres in 1970. Italy exports less wine to Britain than does France, but Italy has drawn ahead of Germany in exports and is beginning to challenge Spain.

Chianti is no longer the only name on wine lists in both the retail and the catering trades. The emergence of other names in table *wines has been augmented* by an awareness of brands regarding sparkling wines and vermouth. The British public are said to be conservative but once they change their drinking habits, they are perhaps loyal to what they like and they seem to go on buying it

There is, perhaps, a link between the admitted progress on the quality and stylishness of Italian wines and the way in which they are drunk in Britain. Younger drinkers seem prepared to try wines that are new to them. Maps are studied, books and articles consulted and tasting groups try their palates on the wines they can find from the Alto Adige, the Veneto, Piedmont, Emilia, Romagna, the Marches and Sicily.

Italy's heritage of art has made possible, in commercial terms, the superb maps, posters and publicity material that local syndicates and importers make use of to introduce the British public to Italian wines. They provoke immediate interest because of their excellence of design and liveliness of approach. From the moment that the drinker who wants a change looks at even a modest window or counter display of Italian wines, contact is established. Surely anything presented with such artistry is at least worth a try.

It is essential never to approach an Italian wine with the slightest intention of comparing it with any other wine from any other country. Italy is a largish country with such variations of climate and wine-making traditions that generalizations and comparisons are unwise.

Because of the extensive range of wines from Italy, retailers are beginning to help the potential customer to sort out the regions. Many are keeping their stocks of Italian wines apart from others, so that buyers can see several barolos or chiantis or verdicchios from different firms side by side. Buyers are now aware that most of the great wine establishments make a range which will include everyday wines and go up to the fine and the rare.

Another marked trend is in the sale of 1.5 litre and 2 litre bottles, with even larger ones available from Italian producers, which are good value and can be just right for parties. That is another example of the way less expensive Italian wines can be enjoyed because they go with meat, fish, casseroles, salads and every kind of British fare as well as the many regional specialities of their homeland.

No rigid "white with fish, red with meat" is necessary with them—drink as you like. *The British are drinking* large quantities of Italian sparkling wines which include a number of wines lesser known than asti spumante, some of them being made by the champagne method. Hosts never think now of apologizing for serving such sparklers. It is perhaps another instance of declining wine snobbery when people want to offer a *wine that is good but cheap.*

The fruitiness of the moscato grape, which makes all asti, appeals immediately to all types of drinkers. But the finesse of many of them in slightly drier form, such as the top grade sparklers of Riccadonna and Martini, are enjoyed by the most worldly type of drinker. Martini and some other firms make sparkling wines outside the Asti region which are both fine and rare and they tend always to be scarce because of demand.

In 1976 Italy sent Britain 48,482 hectolitres of sparkling wine, which represented 50.19 per cent of the sparkling wines imported by Britain. That shows that those wines are more than ice-cream and pastry partners.

The British love the mouth-filling, immediately fragrant wines from the north and the easy-going southern reds, which stand up to our specialities, such as steak and kidney pudding, toasted cheese and sausages, pork pie and *mince. The big reds, such as* those from Piedmont, are good with game, as they are in Italy, and they provide a sensuous pleasure for drinkers who respond to wines which have guts as well as grace.

The Italian whites are often so different from other European classics that drinkers may be slightly puzzled by them. But the Trebbiano grape makes lightly scented buttery whites, and the northern whites, which are light, fresh and often charming, deserve exploration. The sweeter whites, delectable in their homeland with fruit, can also be good refreshers. *They are all so easy to* drink.

Vermouth is being drunk in greater quantities in Britain. The biancos have 35.5 per cent of the market, which is understandable because they are fragrant and pale and look dry, but are really not as dry as the truly dry vermouths, which come second. The red vermouths are not drunk in Britain in quite the quantities consumed in Italy, but mixtures of dry and sweet (red) are popular.

Martini is reported to have 53.6 per cent of the market in Britain and it leads in the extra dry and rosso markets, where Cin*zano, which accounts for* 25.1 per cent in the same period, naturally leads in the biancos, with Riccadonna some way behind, although they make individual vermouths.

It is interesting that neat vermouth is being drunk more, as it used to be. Because of that trend the difference in brands is more and more important. Vermouth and soda is a pleasant, long, thirst-quenching tipple that any bar can provide for the drinker who wants to limit his alcoholic intake.

By January, 1978, it is expected that Italian table wines may show an increase of 34 per cent for 1977 over the volume of imports for 1976. That shows, perhaps, that drinkers are getting *more adventurous. There is* much scope for exploring the large range of inexpensive Italian wines that the big firms now sell, as well as the special vintages that are expensive even in their own regions.

Since the introduction of the DOC controls, wines bottled in Italy have been brought into line with established traditions in areas where it has been granted.

Elsewhere bulk wines have much improved, thanks to the work of oenulogists who have been aware of what is required for selling at home and abroad, and the benevolent supervision of many large businesses whose backing has assured continuity of quality.

Many wines, of course, will improve and others will be easier to find abroad.

Many estates will in time produce fine wines as well as their everyday lines, and Britain is fortunate to be on the receiving end.

The author is Wine Correspondent, The Times.

Bacchus bequeaths his image

by Allan Plowman

As far back as 1384 the chatelains of Florence and Siena, otherwise at loggerheads with one another, agreed to cooperate in the protection of the most valuable asset they had in common—their wine.

The league they formed was a forerunner of the *Consorzio Vino Chianti Classico* set up in 1924 by producers anxious to rede*fine standards* in a world where Italian wine in general commanded scant respect.

Three years later three of the more northern zones of Chianti—Montalbona, Rufina and Colli Fiorentini—formed the *Consorzio Putto*, adopting a Bacchic cherub as their particular symbol. Its standards and requirements were only slightly less demanding than those sporting the black cockerel of Chianti Classico. They remain so, and are now open to growers in the other three zones of the defined Chianti area, the hills of Siena, Arezzo and Pisa.

For 30 years it was a working rule for the buyer that a bottle of Chianti should bear the neck label of *Gallo* or *Putto*. In other areas of Italy as well the local *consorzi* were legally entrusted with authority to pontificate on production and labelling

Does the sign of the *consorzio* mean anything today, in view of the state laws of *Denominazione di Origine Controllata*? On the day of vintage last month in Montepaldi the Marchese Cino Corsini gave me his opinion that the *Consorzio Gallo*, which his *father had helped to found*, tended nowadays merely to duplicate the technical regulations of DOC. He agreed, however, that such bodies still did a useful job of joint publicity. I believe, too, that Gallo at least has a task ahead in a possible classification of the district's *crus*, in the manner of the Bordeaux vineyards that Chianti Classico most seeks to emulate.

It was on July 12, 1963, that the turning point came and the President of the Republic issued Decree No 930, setting forward rules to protect the name-sources of Italian wines. The new laws were drawn up in harmony with EEC regulations approved the year before.

Responsible, with the Ministry of Agriculture, for administering the DOC regulations is a national committee composed of growers, producers, dealers, members of relevant professional associations and state specialists.

Penalties for misuse of approved wine names are now every bit as heavy as those inflicted on sinners against the French laws of appellation contrôlée.

Worthwhile or not, consortiums are required to be set up within controlled areas by EEC legislation. Wine growers and producers are not obliged to join these associations, although there is much advantage in their doing so. Each consortium is entitled to police the practices of its members. The inspectors are themselves fellow members (or members of fellow consortiums) and may *therefore incline* to take a charitable view of malpractices. On the whole, though, the principles of group psychology prevail and the erring brother falls into line. Certainly it is a brave individual who scorns altogether to join his consortium.

The real safeguard to the consumer lies in the sanctions of DOC: in the knock on the door from the state anti-fraud police, in the far *from lenient sampling by the* Government when wines are to be exported. And these official attentions are likely to be all the more acute when a firm has decided against membership of a consortium.

It is up to the grower or producer to prove his case for the award of a DOC. DOC regulations ensure that a wine is from the area named; uses the laid down proportions of specific grapes; is made by traditional methods and is properly aged: does not exceed defined quantities in relation to vineyard area; gives the true vintage date; and is not misleadingly labelled.

Italian wines mystify by their multiplicity of names. The title may refer to a place or a grape variety; to the producing company or a brand. *It may even follow* the tradition of Vino Mama Mia or Da Vinci Extra Fine —fair enough clue that the contents probably hail from anywhere but Naples or Florence.

continued on next page

Piedmont: gold under the mountains

by G. U. Salvi

Piedmont is the nearest Italian province to France, but is probably less well known to the British than Lombardy or Tuscany. There is a tendency for people to make haste to Milan on business, or to Florence for art, or Rome for history. *That is a pity, because Pied*mont has a great deal to offer, particularly for those who enjoy their food and wine.

Turin, the capital of the province, is a city with a beautiful centre of arcaded streets and a lot of dull *sprawling suburbs.* The country to the north leads to the foothills of the Alps, whereas to the south is verdant, rolling, picturesque country. A good deal of wine is grown in this region and the vines in full leaf make a lovely sight. In most *years the yield of grapes is* both large and good.

The Piedmontese believe that there is no wine like theirs. *That may be true,* but it does not necessarily mean that it is the world's finest wine, which is what they mean. But Piedmont is undoubtedly the province from which many of the fine wines of Italy come and many of them are good. *Most are red, although* Italy's best known sparkling wine, Asti, is white.

One reason for the high quality of the wines of Piedmont is that the province is sheltered from the cold north winds by the Alps—Piedmont means "the foot of the mountain"—and being south of the Alps it *has a hot summer to bring* the grapes to maturity and a damp autumn and cold winter, which is good for the health of the vines. And then the splendid red Nebbiolo grape, which is the grape from which Barolo, Barbaresco and other wines are made.

Although it is a common error to compare one country's wine with another's, Barolo is often called the Burgundy of Italy. Many believe it is the outstanding wine of Piedmont, and with apologies to Chianti, of all Italy. From the days of the Romans it has been consistently highly praised. Barolo comes from *southwest of Alba and is a* big, full wine, at times reaching 15°. It has a hint of raspberry on the nose, is ruby red when young, turning to reddish brown as it gets older. And "older" does not mean three or four years, but 10 or 15, like fine Bordeaux. It is a truly admirable partner to game and red meat.

Barbaresco comes from just north-east of Alba and is made from the same grape as Barolo. However it is not so robust and matures more rapidly—a worthy member of the Nebbiolo family.

There are several local wines taking the great name such as Nebbiolo di Castellinaldo, Nebbiolo d'Alba and others.

Freisa and Grignolino are other *red wines well worthy* of consideration. Grignolino is sometimes followed by the name of the nearest town, such as Grignolino d'Asti. Lighter in *character,* they are nevertheless easy, *pleasant drinking. Dolcetto* is the odd one out, being a red dessert wine for those with a sweet tooth. Those three wines take their names from the grape varieties from which they are made.

The quantity production *of Piedmont* wine *is* undoubtedly Barbera, made *from the grape of the same* name. But it is *qualitative* as well as quantitative. A word of warning: be sure you get the *asciutto*, or dry. There is some labelled *amabile*, or amiable, which is certainly no friend to *main* course dishes. The dry mar*rics perfectly with rich food* and the *bollito*—a dish of beef, pork, chicken, calves' head and a form of salami *all boiled together and* served with a piquant green sauce known as *salsa verde.* Very Piedmontese and very good.

Last of the well-known red wines is Spanna. The vine was imported from Spain centuries ago, but is *now indistinguishable from* the Nebbiolo and more than possibly is the same vine. It comes from an area north of Novara and is similar in character to Barolo.

Gattinara, Carema, and Ghemme are outstanding examples of wine made from *this grape. I agree* with Hugh Johnson who says *that were these and* many other names for similar wines all sold under the one name of Spanna, it could well become famous.

Although the bulk of Piedmontese wine is red we cannot forget Cortese, a light dry fresh white and an *admirable partner to almost* any fish dish.

Moscato is a delicious grape, and wines made from *it are famous, the Moscato* d'Asti being perhaps the best. There are non-sparkling Moscato wines, but Asti spumante is now Italy's most famous sparkling wine. In the main it is a sweet dessert wine of real muscat flavour, but there are some *dry ones which make splen*did aperitif drinking. They will have *secco* on the label.

All the wines mentioned can be found in Britain—some less easily than others, but none too *difficult to* find for those interested *enough to search a little.*

For those who motor through Piedmont and would like to try some of the lesser-known wines there is Moscato d'Amburgo, a muscat wine to be found at Potacomaro, north of Asti. South-west of Ales*sandria is the village of Ber*gamasco, where they make a *wine, which they call* Tocai rosso—red Tokay. Slightly north of Cuneo, at Saluzzo, they make Paleverga, a del*icate very pale pink wine.* Chilled, it is most refreshing.

South of the Simplon pass, around Domodossola are two red, *clean* slightly bitter mountain wines called *Prunènt* and *Brushchèrt.* South-west of Novaro at Vercelli is to be found Chiaretto di Cavaglia, a pale red sweetish wine drunk locally to celebrate weddings and christenings. None of those lesser known wines are DOC, and that also applies *to Spanna.*

For those interested in the tools of the trade, there is a museum at Nizza Monferrato, south-east of Asti, the contents of which have been lovingly gathered together by *Dr Arturo Bersano,* a great connoisseur and lover of wine. There is a wonderful selection of utensils used throughout the ages.

The author is an OBE and Cavaliere Ufficiale dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana.

Nod of recognition for Dom Perignon

by Philip Dallas

Italian bubbly is a terrain that wine-writers seem to have left almost virgin, touching exclusively on the inexpensive mousseux-type asti spumante. There are more than a hundred million bottles of Italian *méthode-champenoise* and charmat-system sparkling wines made every year, of which about four million are made by the traditional French champagne method.

The Italians contest the generally accepted theory that champagne was "invented" at Hautvilliers Abbey, countering that not only was it known at the abbey of Blanquette Limoux in 1388 but was in use 19 centuries ago in Rome, where it was called *potropum.* They do, however, give Dom Perignon the credit for having done an excellent research-and-development job in perfecting the product.

I believe it was the shortage of French champagne in Italy, caused by the various vine diseases of the last century, that aroused Italian oenologists to go to Rheims *and Montpellier to study* the art of making champagne. Not only was the art learnt but the black and grey pinot and the white chardonnay vines were brought to Italy. The two *former were acclimatized in* the rolling hill country of the Oltrepò Pavese (south of Pavia), and the chardonnay vine in the Trento area at 2,000ft.

The resulting product was often labelled champagne, but in 1948 the French succeeded in establishing their sole right to the use of this zonal denomination and the *Italians then called their* product "spumante". In the same year, a similar dispute arose over the use of the word "cognac" and the Italians were compelled to find another name for their wine aqua vitae, which they decided to call "brandy".

What is curious is that, as with the Italian brandy quality legislation passed *after 1948, the autonomous* group of Italian "champagne" producers (the Italian Spumante Institute) that was formed in 1975 set themselves higher standards than those required by the *EEC wine policy.* All *spumante classico metodo champenois* as Italian "champagne" is now called, must be vintage-dated, no *cuvée* mixture of wines from different years is permitted and all bottles must be fermented for three years before being degorged and marketed.

Like its French counterpart, *the Italian spumante classico metodo champenois* is made from gently handled and lightly pressed black or grey pinot burgundy grapes of white pinot (*blanc de blanc*), to which *latter may be added* a small proportion of Italian cortese, riesling, malvasia or prosecco grapes, which are then subjected to three stages, one in the wood and two in the bottle.

The pinot wine is bottled with the addition of selected yeasts (*saccharomyces cerevisiae* or *bayanus*), sugar in liquid form, some bentonite, ammonium sulphate and other mineral salts—this is *the liqueur de tirage*—and a complete refermentation cycle over a period of three years and at a pressure of six atmospheres takes place.

At the end of this second fermentation, the 70-day *remuage* and *frisson* process is carried out, whereby the sediment is sent to the bottleneck and frozen. After the degorgement of the frozen sediment, a *liqueur d'expédition*, consisting of *wine-concentrate, aqua vitae,* some citric acid and, except in the case of *bruts*, a percentage of liquid cane sugar is added to each bottle.

This *liqueur d'expédition* is the secret of each producer *and serves to stabilize the* wine, to encourage the bubbling *perlage* and to regulate the dryness or sweetness. The bottles are then *stored* in a cold cellar for at least six months.

With "champagnes" and spumantes, it is important to know that a *brut* or a *nature* means that there is from 0 to 1.5 per cent of *sugar* content; 1.5 per cent to 2.5 per cent is labelled extra *sec*, extra *secco or* extra dry; 2.5 per cent to 5 per cent is *sec, secco* or dry (when, in fact, it is distinctly sweet); 5 per cent to 8 per *cent is demi-sec and* 8 per cent to 15 per cent is extraordinarily sweet.

The producers of Italian *brut spumante classico metodo champenois* are distinguished, respected and even revered. In alphabetical order, they are: Antinori, of chianti fame, offering *gran spumante nature*; Calissano, producing a *brut*; Carpene Malvolti, the famous Veneto producer of brandy, *grappa* and *prosecco* sparkling wines—*brut*; Cinzano, known throughout the world for its vermouths—*brut*; Contratto, an old-established company renowned for its fine Piedmont wines—*brut*, Sabauda Imperial Riserva, Riserva for England, and Riserva Bacco d'Oro; Equipe 5, a more recent group of perfectionist experts, specializing in *metodo-champenois*—*brut*; Ferrari of Trento, perhaps the most distinguished of this distinguished company—a *blanc de blanc brut* and a *brut rosé*; Fontanafredda, a Piedmont subsidiary of the Monte dei Paschi di Siena Bank, founded in medieval times — Contessa Rosa; Gancia, of vermouth fame—Carlo Gancia Brut and Gran Cremant Secco; the Cantina Sociale di Santa Maria di Versa, a cooperative in the middle of the great pinot growing area near Pavia—its La Versa Brut; and, finally, Martini and Rossi with their Riserva Montelera.

The quantities of these excellent wines imported into the United Kingdom are small, mainly because the production is small and because no notable effort has been made to launch them on the British or any other export market.

Of the above list of producers, Carpene Malvolti, *Cinzano, Contratto, Fontana*fredda, Gancia and Martini and Rossi together with Cora, De Bernard, Garavelli, Riccadonna, Valdo, Bertani and Bolla (these last two make a magnificent red Recioto spumante in Verona), Berlucchi Franciacorta, the CAVIT and the Cantina Sociale di Cartizze-*Valdobbiadene produce more* than 95 million bottles of Italian spumante, made by what is variously called the charmat, autoclave or *cuve-close* method; of these, 6,500,000 bottles are imported into the United Kingdom.

Philip Dallas is author of Italian Wines, published by Faber & Faber.

Aperitifs which have all the perfumes of the Orient

by Joyce Rackham

When you pass through the doors of one of the great vermouth houses in or around Turin, exotic vapours warm and welcome you, the perfumes of the Orient competing with the scent of mountain herbs. The effect is both exciting and soothing, especially if distillation or infusion is in progress. Most people drinking the finished product are unaware that vermouth is the result of a fascinating and intricate process, by which a blend of decent but essen*tially neutral wines is trans*formed with the addition of an infusion of aromatic plants, herbs and spices.

These range from cinnamon, cardamom, coriander and myrrh, juniper and gentian, to extracts of tree barks and fruit peels, quinine, and wormwood. The German word for this, *Wermut*, strangely enough, gave its *name to the aperitif*, probably because the recipe for *Wermutwein*, which was very popular for its medicinal properties in the Middle Ages, was taken by an Italian from Germany to France in the sixteenth century, and thence to Italy. Certainly it is unlikely that what was probably a nauseous potation then would bear any *resemblance to today's taste.*

Bacchic historians trace its origin to the worthy Hippocrates, citing *vinum hippocratium*, which must have been a fearsome kind of Hellenic absinthe, and forerunner of the *vinum absinthiatum*, which the ancient Romans used to quaff.

Vermouth was first made *commercially in Italy in the* eighteenth century, when the House of Cinzano was founded in Turin, and when Antonio Carpano, who owned a bar next to the city's stock exchange, started the firm which became famous for the velvety brown, bitter-sweet Punt e Mes.

The name means "point and a half" in local dialect, and is supposed to refer to a term for a share price. Today Punt e Mes is regarded as a true connoisseur's vermouth, a blend of great subtlety, and worth its *price — about £2.10 to £2.20* a bottle, which is between 60p and 80p more than the cost of other Italian vermouths.

Sales of this aperitif generally in Britain last year *reached about 64 million* bottles, representing a value of £120m. The largest share of this was enjoyed by the Italian producers, headed by *Martini and Rossi*, brand leader in extra dry and Rosso—the top-selling *sweet* white, bianco, is from Cinzano. Four-fifths of all vermouth consumed is bought in shops and off-licences.

Such a valuable *market*, which is still expanding, is stimulated by intensely competitive salesmanship, price-cutting and heavy expenditure on advertising, especially on television. Some of *the leading Italian brands*, seeking a larger share of the British market, will undoubtedly be spending more than ever on this during the coming year.

Riccadonna is one, and its *campaign in Britain has been* described by Mr Michael Trotman, brand director for shippers, Saccone and Speed, as "using guerrilla tactics" *to tackle the provinces area* by area.

Another is Stock, produced by the famous Trieste brandy distillers, whose shippers, Findlater Matta, are just beginning an ambitious programme of promotion. A third, Cora, shipped to Britain by G. Belloni, which represents a host of Italian wine firms including the *celebrated Antinori chiantis*, will be another contender.

How different are the various brands? In a comparative tasting of six from *those available* throughout the country, I found many variations of style and personality. Here are the results: extra dry white, or dry white (Secco) came first. The Cinzano is *very pale*, delicate in flavour, not notably dry; Martini is more aromatic, drier than most, while Riccadonna is one of the least dry, with rather perfumed bouquet. Stock *tastes more of herbs, is* drier, and therefore has more bite.

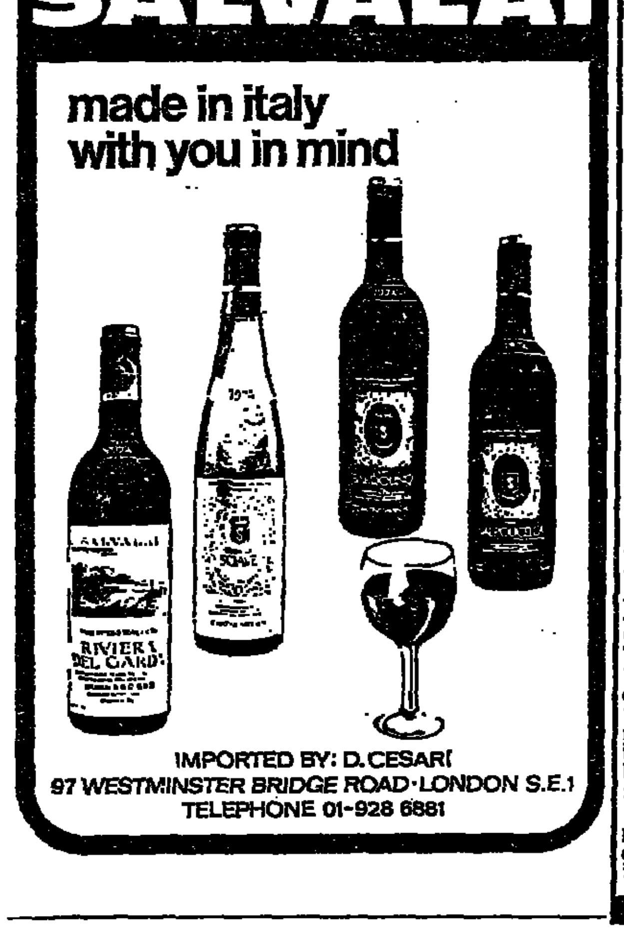
Cora is smooth, with agreeable bouquet, less dry, while *Gancia is very pale, clean on* the palate, and harmonious. *Bianco, the sweet white* which is now the top seller in Britain, also showed a diversity of style. Cinzano, not unexpectedly, is very correctly blended, elegant, with intriguing flavour. Cora has traditional style, and is drier than most of the others.

Riccadonna again shows marked perfume, and Stock *is very flowery. Gancia is* distinctively aromatic, while Martini is a drier, more restrained blend. Rosso is a name which indicates the ruby glints which embellish a colour varying from golden topaz to deep amber. Cinzano Rosso is one of the darkest, a very good blend with plenty of personality. Also deep in hue is Riccadonna, *which is rich and herb* flavoured. Cora is a gentler amber, drier, and lighter on the palate. Gancia is also paler, lighter, rather luscious *in character*. Stock's Rosso has a drier finish, most attractive flavour, while the Martini is softer, well rounded, and pleasantly sweet.

Although all these vermouths *make a good straight drink*, taken neat "on the rocks" with a slice of lemon or a twist of peel, their capacity to add zest and colour to mixed drinks is inexhaustible. Tasting in the wineries *of Cinzano and Martini*, I particularly enjoyed the variations invented by their barmen to use a blend of two or three different types. One of the best, recommended for those who do *not drink spirits, is Cinzano's* Senza Nome using equal parts of Rosso and Extra Dry white, with a teaspoon*ful of orange juice, and* orange peel.

South Americans enjoy vermouth in many forms, and from Venezuela comes a recipe called *vermouth preparado.* Using a 10oz glass, *you start with crushed ice*, a dash of Angostura bitters, a small spoonful of grenadine sirop and the juice of a lemon. Fill it up with bianco vermouth, *decorate it* with a slice of pineapple and lemon, and sip it through a straw.

Usually found in the best bars alongside vermouth is campari, the garnet-red bitter sweet spirit which is *another of Italy's finest con*tributions to civilized drinking. When I talked to Signora Migliavacca, the octogenarian lady who is still the company's active president, at her home in Milan, she deplored the fact that so many barmen all over the world still did not realize that a slice of fresh orange, not lemon, is the finest ac*companiment to campari.* It makes a very happy union with sweet vermouth, in those two famous cocktails, the Negroni (with gin as well) and in the classic Americano.



Bacchus image

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*DOC is primarily a geo*graphical matter. Even where a varietal description is apt, the best examples will be qualified by a place-name—for example Cabernet *del Piave*, Barbera *d'Alba*, Verdicchio *dei Castelli di Jesi.* A purely historical title such as Est! Est!! Est!!! is an oddity in every sense. Even here the DOC will *specify di Montefiascone.*

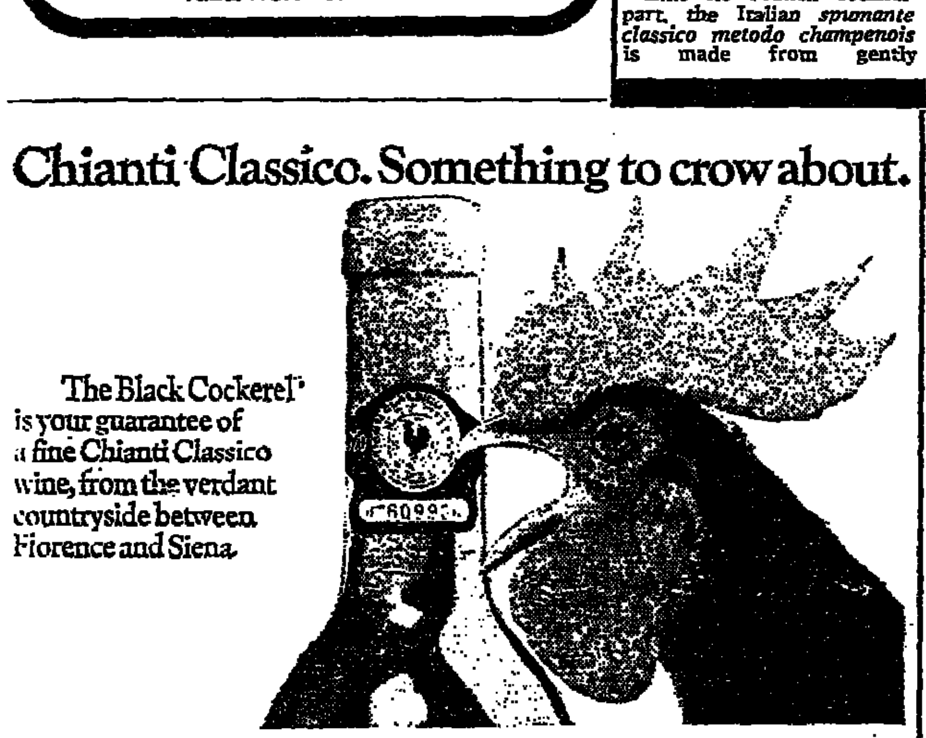
Among earliest wines to *qualify for the award of DOC* was the red Umbrian wine of Torgiano, developed to its present eminence by Dr Giorgio Lungarotti on a *slope between Perugia and* Assisi. It could be argued that DOC owes as much to the loving care of Dr Lungarotti as his Torgiano Rubesco *does* to *DOC*. The wine is available over here through Gilbey Vintners' retail chain, Peter Dominic.

The DOC accolade is reserved for some 180 wines "of particular reputation and worth". *Lesser* (but still unblended) wines may rate the denomination *Semplice.* A few outstanding names may qualify for the top billing of DOCG—*Controllata e Garanteita*, (select wines of particular excellence) sold only in bottles sealed with a *government stamp.*

Commendable as these efforts to categorize quality may be, it should nevertheless be noted that some of the finest Italian wines may not rate any sort of DOC: they are too individual to be eligible or are produced in too small a quantity to be worth the bother. These are *the wines the grower will* proudly offer you from his private cellar: the dry sparkler made from Pinot grapes, obligatory in Champagne but prescribed in the DOC of Conegliano; or the *vin santo* which fills a mere cask and is accordingly not worth marketing to a sanctified formula.

Normally, however, be reassured by the DOC.

Chianti Classico. Something to crow about.



Acclaimed by emperor and poet

by Bruno Roncarati

Veneto is one of the most interesting regions of Italy on account of its wines and of its geographic situation.

The variety of wines made there is considerable, extending from delicate whites to full bodied reds, so is that of contrasting scenery such as the massif snow clad Dolomitic peaks and the smooth beaches of the Adriatic sea.

The best known wine of the region is undoubtedly Valpolicella, ruby red, delicate, dry, with a slightly bitter after taste reminiscent of bitter almonds, this being a characteristic common to other wines of the area.

The basic grape varieties used are *Corvina Veronese*, Rondinella and Molinara also used in the making of Recioto Amarone. This is a superb red produced with selected grapes left to dry for a few weeks on special racks to increase the percentage of natural sugar that transforms into alcohol during the lengthy process of fermentation that follows, prolonged by the cold temperature of the winter months, and gives a big wine suitable for aging.

Both Valpolicella and Recioto Amarone are considered the descendants of the ancient *retico* and *acinatico* wines, the former being well known to Roman emperors and poets alike and referred to by Martial, Pliny, Strabo and Virgil.

The area of production is in the province of Verona, north of the city and spreads east from the Adige river. The western part of this area is known as the *zona classica* and this is where the best wine is produced. Valpolicella with 12 or more degrees of alcohol and aged for at least one year, is entitled the additional specification *superiore*. So look at the label carefully and you will no longer be puzzled by the price differentiation between Valpolicellas. The *classico superiore* is normally sold in the conventional three quarter litre bottle and is more pricey, pro-rata, than the plain Valpolicella usually sold in large 1.5 and two litre bottles seldom with a cork stopper.

This applies to other wines both from this region and from elsewhere, even if the prescribed minimum aging period and alcoholic content may vary from wine to wine. It applies indeed to Bardolino and Soave, a pale red and white from near there. The former is similar to Valpolicella though lighter and often fruitier, and is made with grapes grown on the *south-eastern* shores of Lake Garda, a beautiful lake of glacial origin where viticulture has been in existence as long as mankind. It is a pleasant wine not too well known in Britain but with great potential: just a matter of the consumer mastering the pronunciation of its name, an obstacle often underestimated and difficult to overcome.

The wine is named after the prehistoric lake village of Bardolino that lies in a little picturesque bay at the foot of vine-covered hills crowned by cypress trees.

Lamberti is the largest producer of Bardolino Classico having over 200 hectares of vineyards in the *zona classica*. Its Classico Superiore is gathering momentum and is obtainable at Peter Dominic shops where Soave and Valpolicella Lamberti can also be found, the latter being part of the current "take three save 50p", offer.

Soave is a white wine of delicate taste, slightly bitter and fruity, *made from* Garganega and Trebbiano di Soave north east of Verona. It is an ideal companion for delicate dishes.

In accordance with the oenological tradition of its province and further to promote it throughout the world, each year from September to October, Verona stages Vinitaly, the most comprehensive wine fair in the country, where the wines of more than 1,000 producers *are on show and for tasting*. Thus in the charming town of Romeo and Juliet, on the banks of the Adige river, where Roman, medieval and Renaissance art blend so gracefully together, people gather every autumn from all over the world to sample the wines of Italy.

Some 30 miles north-east of Verona, is Vicenza, the home town of Palladio, the creator of an architectural style much admired and *followed in England in the* late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Palladio's finest villa, the Rotonda, is one of Vicenza's greatest jewels. Also to be admired are the superb cathedral, the magnificent Loggia del Capitario in the Piazza del Signori and the Olympic Theatre.

A few miles north of there is Breganze, a small town that gives its name to six wines made with different *grape varieties*. These are Breganze Bianco, Breganze Rosso, Breganze Cabernet, Breganze Pinot Nero, Breganze Pinot Bianco, Breganze Vespaiolo. The first two, the *bianco* and the *rosso* are made predominantly with Tocai and Merlot respectively, and a *small* percentage of other grape varieties.

The others are made mainly from the grape variety indicated. Their alcoholic content varies between 11° and 12° and their predominant characteristics are derived from the main type of grape used. These are sound, fresh, fruity wines of limited production, seldom found abroad.

On the way to Venice a sense of expectation always prevails. The contrast with the industrialized towns of Marghera and Mestre becomes more obvious approaching the Grand Canal. Here one dives almost abruptly into the past and navigating under a low bridge or wandering on foot along the narrow *calli*, the presence of people in modern clothing does not appear appropriate in a setting that is reminiscent of Canaletto's works and could be framed and hung over the mantelpiece.

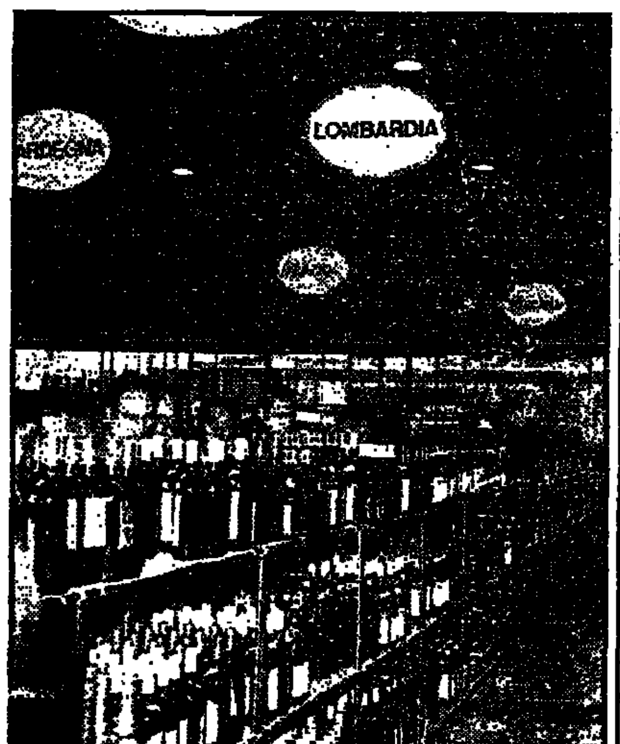
It is along the *calli*, off the beaten track that some few *osterie* still exist. These inns are the ideal place to sample local wine. In the summer they sell it by the glass from rustic barrels, refrigerated by advanced methods. It may be Soave or Verduzzo from the Piave basin, fragrant, thirst quenching and invigorating. The local sea food naturally is complemented by these excellent whites but they are not a must by any means. Try a fresh, fruity Bardolino on a *fritto di pesce*: though not a white wine, you will find it most appropriate.

Leaving behind the lagoon, whether you go north or east, there are vineyards again. To the north, some 30 miles, is Conegliano and near by Valdobbiadene. Prosecco is made there, a white wine produced with Prosecco grapes grown in a defined area in the province of Treviso. If made from grapes grown in a much more restricted area known as Cartizze, located in the commune of Valdobbiadene, the wine is entitled the additional specification *superiore di Cartizze*.

These white wines are of straw yellow colour, fruity *and fresh* and can be *dry or amabile-dolce*, semi-sweet-sweet, with an alcoholic content of about 11°. There is also a *frizzante* type that is rather bubbly and a *spumante* that is fully sparkling; both can be dry or semi-sweet and the *spumante* can also be sweet. They are all fruity and outstanding in their own rights.

For further information contact the Italian Institute for Foreign Trade ICE, 20 Savile Row, London W1.

Bruno Roncarati is the author of Viva Vino: the DOC Wines of Italy.



The wines of more than 1,000 producers are shown at Verona's annual fair.

The Marches: why Hannibal failed

by Allan Plowman

After the hills of Piedmont or Tuscany, Lombardy can seem pretty flat—not least so during the present vintage, when floods swamped half the fields.

But even regions less low-lying than the valley of the Po can seem metaphorically flat, overshadowed by their more glamorous neighbours. *For all the impressive roads* that link the ancient province of Italy, local loyalties remain strong. Perugia, for instance, is far more withdrawn from Siena than the modest milage between them would suggest.

On the northern side of the Apennines and towards the Adriatic, Emilia-Romagna and the Marches can evoke much the same feeling of cultural remoteness. Of the latter area an official booklet itself states that it is "little known even to Italians".

Reggio Emilia is nevertheless one of the country's biggest wine-producers, with an output twice that of Lombardy. One of its wines is popular to the point of being a positive cult, and four others increasingly make their mark.

Lambrusco, the famous wine of Modena is a dark *sparkling red, officially* classed as dry (although *amabile* versions abound). It is a varietal, the Lambrusco being the grape from which it is vinified, and the title is often qualified by a place-name. Considered among the best is the Lambrusco di Sorbara.

Designed primarily to cut through the fatty dishes of the Bologna region—the spiced sausages, mortadella, doughy pastas and braised beans—Lambrusco sells in huge quantities as a party drink for the young, and—notably in America—as a table wine for the not-so-young. The wine's local nickname is, indeed, "Lambrusco-cola".

In style Lambrusco has something in common with the red *vinhos verdes* of Portugal, it being best drunk while still fresh and young. Any initial froth soon subsides to a pleasant prickle, and in a good example the finish is clean.

The Romagnoli are a jolly people, and it could be discourteous to be over-serious about the wines they so hospitably dispense. Complementing the rich dishes of the region is the Romagna Sangiovese, a robust red made from the main ingredient of Chianti. Grown on the hillsides between Bologna and Rimini, it is a full-bodied dry wine that may grow less tannic with moderate aging.

Of ancient renown is the Albana di Romagna, grown from a grape of that name unique to the *region*. Golden-yellow and more often rather sweet than dry, it provides a fresh but appreciable mouthful. As with so many Italian whites, its alcohol content is deceptively high: 12.5°.

If the Sangiovese is the standard red grape of central Italy, Trebbiano is the classic white. The DOC zone for the Trebbiano of Romagna covers vineyards around Forli, Ravenna and Bologna. It is a straw-coloured wine, dry and well-balanced.

At the opposite (western) end of the province, Piacenza—last outpost of the Piedmont hills—is the home of a red which formerly made no claim to attention but which now rates a DOC and enjoys a blossoming reputation: Gutturnio di Colli Piacentini. It tempers the familiar Barbera of Piedmont with Bonarda, and is the *sort of wine where your* own verdict is as valid as anyone's.

All told, more than 70 types of wine may be tracked down in Emilia Romagna, but clearly only a handful of these come to—or merit—our notice.

The United States doubtless continues to consume five times as much Lambrusco as Chianti and a hundred times as much as Barolo. The Romagnoli are *determined to publicize* their best Sangiovese, with the aid of the Passatore, a rollicking confraternity that rivals the Sacavins d'Anjou in conviviality. Albana is at present the Emilia Romagna wine that commands the highest price.

The Marches, away on the Adriatic coast, was until *recently a remote papal* state with poor communications. Its natives lived mainly on fishing and mixed farming. The region nevertheless produces one of Italy's most famous dry whites. The fancy amphora-shaped bottle in which Verdicchio is so often served in restaurants must come second only to the Chianti *fiasco* as the basis of home-made lamps.

Verdicchio deserves its esteem. It *is a wine of* appealing style, pale in colour, clean on the palate, full but with an edge of austerity: an admirable accompaniment to the local fish—or to any fish. The DOC demands a minimum alcohol content of 12° and one can see why Hannibal failed to encircle Rome when his troops sampled the Marches Verdicchio.

Verdicchio is again a varietal, made from a grape cropping up elsewhere in Italy. In the Marches, therefore, one looks for the qualifying place-name. Best known is the Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi, from a small district behind the *port of Ancona. Only the* inner (*classico*) part of the zone may use the full title. Less well known is its neighbour the Verdicchio di Matelica. Despite competition from its established cousin, the Matelica producers are now beginning to develop export markets.

As with varietals in many countries, the wine does not have to be made 100 per cent from the grape in question. The Verdicchios of both Castelli di Jesi and Matelica may reserve a fifth of their *cépage* for Tuscan Trebbiano and Malvasia.

Montepulciano and Sangiovese vines have been developed in the Marches to yield a couple of honest red wines, Rosso Conero and Rosso Piceno. The Conero is grown on a small mountain behind Ancona, and may best be described as a hearty *vino* of the better type.

Piceno Rosso, once the preserve of the old market town of Ascoli Piceno, is *produced in many parts of* the Marches. a stretch between the original town and the sea remains the site of classic Piceno, which in its *superiore* version, aged for a year before bottling, may well improve yet further with a little patience. Sangiovese-based wines do not always soften with time, but classic Piceno would appear to do so.

The Marchigani are benefiting from EEC funds and *low-interest loans*, with notable improvements in their methods of wine-making.

Chianti prospects are auspicious

by Colin Price Beech

A few weeks ago on a warm mid-October morning I stood on a sunlit Tuscan hillside overlooking a view which, with its calm vineyards and olive groves, woods and cypress trees, instantly recalled all of the tranquillity of a Renaissance landscape.

To the south-west of Florence at Montepaldi in the Chianti Classico region, the vintage had just begun and the proprietor, a distinguished Florentine aristocrat whose family had given Italy two popes and had owned this estate since 1326, had driven up from Porto Ercole to supervise the wine-making.

As we watched, the grapes were coming in with 12° of natural sugar which with fermentation would convert into alcohol, and although the spring had been unusually cold there had been no disease on the vines throughout the summer: even at this stage there was every indication that 1977 would prove to be an excellent vintage.

This scene was perhaps typical of what was happening elsewhere in Chianti and indeed of what I had witnessed earlier that week farther to the south in Umbria, where at Torgiano an exceptionally good—indeed unique—DOC wine, Rubesco Torgiano, is made by Dr Lungarotti and his family. There, just a few days before, the San Giovese grapes had been coming into the presses with an almost incredible 21° to 22° of natural sugar which promised to make a very big wine indeed.

Elsewhere in Italy, though, the vintage of 1977 had been less satisfactory. To the north of Pisa a wet and chilly summer and autumn had been followed by violent rain and these early October storms had given the vineyards something of the appearance of neglected paddy-fields flooded with standing water between the vines.

Back in Chianti, however, the prospects are auspicious and the expectation is that although the quantity of wine being made will be approximately 30 per cent less than that of last year, largely because of the spring frosts, the quality of the wine should be extremely high, certainly comparable if not superior to that of 1975, which in its turn is a Chianti vintage generally reckoned to be as good as that of the outstanding 1971.

However this year's vintage was won on the vine and a good year is certainly needed if Chianti, which is perhaps Italy's most controversial wine, is to maintain its comparatively recent and well-founded reputation for character and quality. Chianti, particularly an old Chianti, can be a fine and subtle wine, perhaps more comparable with Bordeaux than Beaujolais, but, as recent comparative tastings have revealed, vintages can vary widely.

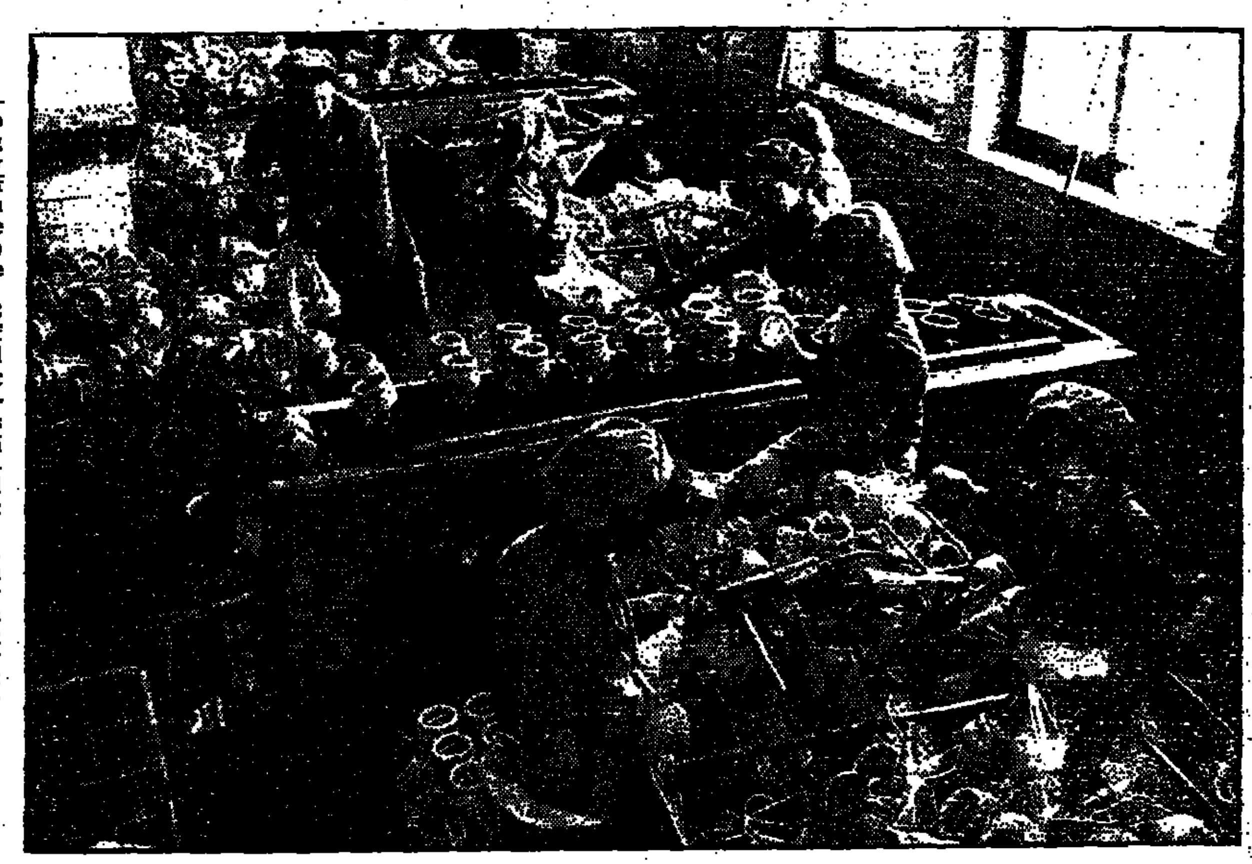
Last year Chianti Classico produced some 350,000 hectolitres, but unfortunately the standard of this vintage was such that only 100,000hl will eventually be allowed the distinctive *Gatto nero*, the jealously coveted black cockerel bottle neck motif which is the Consorzio Chianti Classico seal of quality.

Other Chiantis from outside the Classico region are becoming deservedly better known on the British market. These include Chianti Rifina, Chianti Colli Fiorenti, Chianti Colli Senesi (which can be outstandingly good), Chianti Colli Aretini and Chianti Colli Pisani. The producers have combined to form the Consorzio of Chianti Putto, a seemingly less elitist organization than that of Chianti Classico.

The four grape varieties traditionally included in the production of Chianti are San Giovese, often in the proportion of between 50 and 80 per cent, Canaiolo *nero* (10 to 30 per cent), Tuscan Trebbiano and Malvasia del Chianti (also 10 to 30 per cent). Something uniquely Tuscan must surely be the *governo* system of vinification which is used in the production of those wines that are intended to be drunk when they are young.

In this system between 3 per cent and 10 per cent of a rich grape must is added to the wine after the first fermentation has been completed and this soon induces a deliberately contrived secondary fermentation giving the wine an enhanced freshness that it might otherwise lack.

Vecchio and Riserva wines however are both aged in wood, the former for a minimum of two years and the latter in large oak casks for three years or more. It is in this range that the full mature glory of one of Italy's most distinguished wines can best be judged.



The distinctive Chianti flasks, or fiascos, in the making.

Frascati delights eye and palate

by Peta Fordham

Earlier this year I sat outside Sabatini's in Rome, looking at the lovely church of Santa Maria in Travastere and drinking frascati with my evening meal. It was an enchanted scene, to be recommended to anyone as an introduction to the wines of Latium, for frascati is the undoubted king of that region's wines.

Latium (Lazio) lies between Tuscany and Campania, facing the Tyrrhenian sea and no one really knows the origin of its ancient name, revived in the fifteenth century. The district envelopes Rome in a series of hills and fertile plains, the soil being both volcanic (which is good for vines) and with plenty of potassium in places (which makes for high sugar in the grapes and thus ensures plenty of alcohol).

These wines have flowed into Rome for centuries and in the smoky taverns of the Tiber banks or the grand restaurants of that most well-provided city, dewy carafes of cold, smooth, blond wine are always to be found, with the occasional red not nearly so well known. They will all be of medium alcoholic strength.

The generic name for wines from the Alban Hills is *castelli romani*. Here the vine has been cultivated since prehistoric times and frascati (*secco*) with a sweet variety (*dolce*), known as Cannelino and an intermediate (*amabile*), has been established as a favourite wine in Britain for most of this century, nearly all *secco*, although in its region, there is a demand for the sweet ones too.

Italians like sweet wine with cheese: one falls into this habit rather easily on the spot. Frascati is a lovely wine on eye and palate. Brilliant, delicate straw-yellow in colour, with a light but potent grapey bouquet, the *secco* has only 1 per cent of sugar, but the minimum alcohol is 11.5° (12° makes it *superiore*), and, drunk in the midday heat, *un quartino* and *un mezzo* can slide easily into *un litro* with unpredictable results to head and legs.

Frascati is a wine which has upheld the reputation of the Alban Hills since Roman days, when many an ode was sung to their bounty and today, Denominazioni d'origine quality is protected by the *Frascati Consorzio*. This, among other regulations, lays down the districts from which it can come—mainly Frascati, Grottaferrata, Monteporzio Catone (Cato's home village) and a few outlying parts of Rome.

Everything that appears in a carafe locally may not be DOC frascati (the Italian attitude to wine being to enjoy it, not to take it too seriously) but what is exported most certainly is.

There are other *castelli romani* wines: Colli Albani, Coli Lanuvi, Marino and Montecompatri are probably the best known. As always, there is a certain similarity between many of the wines grown in similar conditions but, in general, the dry castellis are fresh, full-bodied and firm: they are meant to be drunk with full-flavoured food such as *spaghetti alla carbonara* or *saltimbocca alla romana* (both local creations), while the *abbocato* and *dolce* wines go well with such fruit as melons, figs and peaches. These sweet wines are made from late-gathered grapes, subject to "noble rot" and fermentation is slow. All the wines are based on the trebbiano and malvasia grapes, other additions varying with the wines. They are all-purpose wines and can confidently be treated as such.

Est ! Est !! Est !!! di Montefiascone is made about 50 miles north of Rome, near Lake Bolsena. A pleasant, straw-golden coloured wine, lighter than its vinous "nose" suggests (about 11°) it comes in both dry and semi-sweet.

Fairly assessed, it is a pleasant enough wine, sometimes a trifle *frizzante*, but still remaining a favourite. They say it is at its best as an accompaniment to eels. There are a number of other wines from this district, good when discovered on the spot; but Est ! Est !! Est ! ! ! has certainly held the limelight, especially in export.

Aprilia is quite another story from the ancient traditions. It is an entirely modern wine-producing area, created in the late 1940s, on what had been a battleground after the Anzio landings and was, in fact, the drained Pontine Marches; and its pioneer growers were displaced Italian farmers from the Mediterranean Littoral who had learnt their viniculture in North Africa.

Three DOC wines are produced in Aprilia, one white, one red and one rosé. Trebbiano di Aprilia, the white, benefits greatly from the soil, volcanic and alluvial, with a good deal of silica. It is a rather soft, deep-yellow wine, tasting distinctly of the trebbiano grape and with a good, vinous nose, probably owing its character to the fact that the grapeskins are removed from the pressing very quickly and that the pressing itself is soft.

The rosé, *Sangiovese di Aprilia*, is a most attractive wine, almost the colour of a ripe peach, quite dry, its characteristic colour being achieved by separating the red sangiovese grapes from their skins before they can stain the wine too deeply; and the same technique applies also to the Merlot di Aprilia, which is made from a minimum 95 per cent of merlot grapes. Here again, the must is carefully controlled to allow only the right proportion of skins to remain in contact with the wine; and the result is a lovely garnet colour, with full grapey nose, excellent balance and a good deal more character than is achieved by most local wines. This is an interesting area to watch. The vinification is modern and progressive.

I have dealt with some of the best known wines of Latium but there are few areas where more small wines flourish—at a rough estimate, there are something like 18 DOC wines, not incuding the fact that some come in red, white and rosé. For the tourist, it also happens that this is one of the best regions in Italy in which to eat simply and deliciously, as the inhabitants have done for centuries.

To find a good *osteria* in the Alban Hills—there used to be scores but the tourists' insatiable demands have ruined too many—and to sit in the sunshine, eating plain roast meat—probably fine and crackly pork—with rough bread; and to quaff with it the host's own "best bottle" of bianco, is to be transported to classical times. It is an unforgettable gastronomic experience—and not only gastronomic!

Sicilian export confidence grows

by Pamela Vandyke Price

Sicily is an island rich in natural beauty, works of art—and wine. It is important to appraise its wines separately from those of the mainland. Everything about them is different.

In the past, Sicily was known chiefly for Marsala; the other table wines made on a large scale tended to be sent up to the north of Italy to the vermouth establishments. Fullish in style, somewhat aromatic and rather high in alcohol, they were excellent for that purpose, but lacked freshness and grace as table wines.

Travellers, thanks to the good roads, can explore Sicily and still find wines of that type in those cafés and restaurants that have plots of vines behind the house.

Progress in making wine has resulted in the great wineries beginning to establish their special styles and they look with confidence to export markets. Dry white wines are made with great skill and, for a southern vineyard, it is often astonishing to note how both bouquet and crispness are captured.

Sicilian reds can be full-bodied but there are plenty with a simple appeal with a supple style in the finer wines. As with many Mediterranean wines, the rosés can be very good, deeper in colour than those of the north, with a light fruity style.

Each region of Sicily makes wines of individuality. Those from the east have the mineral-like, almost bitter after-taste, suggestive of the volcanic soil on which many vineyards are laid out. Those from around Trapana have a lightish, gracious style; from Marsala the table wines can be fullish, with an agreeable, warm fruitiness and from Alcamo and nearer to Palermo, they tend to have slightly more crispness and a defined character.

Wines made in the interior, often in sharply terraced vineyards as compared with those of the undulating plains of the south, can be distinguished for firm, soft, lengthy flavours.

The use of the native Sicilian grapes—white Inzolia, Caterraro, Grecanico, black Pignatello, Nerello Mascalese and Frappato—is being augmented with certain classic wine grapes, such as the Sauvignon. The stiffening of quality and extra definition that they provide has been recognized as valuable by oenologists who want Sicilian wines to be accepted abroad as more than simply the accompaniments to food in Italian restaurants.

Marsala, a wine which has evolved over two centuries, is far more interesting and subtle than those who enjoy the sweet variety as the base of zabaglione might suppose. Dry Marsala has an elegance and alluringly warm style that could make it a novel winter apéritif.

The Marsala establishments of Ingham, Whitaker and Woodhouse are now part of the huge Florio installation, itself owned by Cinzano, but each firm makes a range of Marsalas, including some flavoured with almonds, chocolate and other additives. The dry Marsalas of Ceratulo and Carlo Pellegrino (who make fine table wines) should be sought out by discriminating lovers of wine.

Corvo is certainly Sicily's most famous exported wine. The makers, at Casteldaccia (one of the few places in the island where no vines are to be seen) use grapes from anywhere in Sicily they consider suitable to produce a "Sicilian style", dry, slightly "stony", white and a firm red.

Visitors should try the Corvo Platina, an elegant white, and their spumante. Other names to note when exploring Sicily are the white, light, fragrant Grecanico of Carlo Pellegrino, Draceno from Trapani, the white Alcamo called Vino Grecale and another called Vino Normanno.

The Settesoli winery makes good reds and whites but their pink, Porto Palo, is ampler and more "important" than most wines of that kind and worth looking for. It should be remembered, however, that Sicily is large and, in one region, the wines of that region will predominate on lists so that only top restaurants in Palermo, Catania and around Marsala may have a wide selection of all wines.

The Barone di Villagrande, whose Etna estates have been admirably modernized and whose wines demonstrate that even southern wines from volcanic soils can be pleasing and balanced, is a name to rely on when choosing wines.

The other distinguished property is that of the Conte Tasca, whose Regaleali wines are some of Sicily's best. The white has an ennobling 10 per cent of Sauvignon, giving it great distinction, the red is matured both in wood and in bottle before being offered for sale.

Visitors should also try to find the Regaleali Riserva, made from selected vineyard plots and the finest grapes harvested in them. First made in 1970, it is perhaps the herald of more estate wines that will be developed.

The moscato wines, especially those of Panellaria, will certainly please the traveller. They are intensely fruity rather than luscious and it is a pity that they are little known outside the island. Sicily's "bitter", the dark Averno, is a good digestive or apéritif, should the traveller feel that so many excellent things to eat and drink have, almost, jaded the palate.

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RUSSIA STUMBLES IN AFRICA

At one time the Russians may have been reasonably confident that post-colonial Africa would fall into their lap. Their success in Angola will have strengthened their confidence, and the number of African leaders who pay lip service to socialism probably continues to prop up their hope that African history is moving broadly in their direction. But some doubts must now be creeping in, and Mr Brezhnev seems to have felt called upon to comment on them in his anniversary speech on November 2. He acknowledged that the struggles of the former colonies could "now and again . . . result in zig-zags in the policies of the young states and sometimes even lead to retreats", but he added reassuringly that "the overall trend of development is incontestable".

Perhaps it is, but if so the evidence is still fairly well concealed. In May Soviet experts were expelled from the Sudan. On Sunday Somalia announced that it is expelling Soviet military experts, withdrawing naval and other facilities, renouncing its treaty of friendship with the Soviet Union and breaking diplomatic relations with Cuba. This is a considerable setback for the Soviet Union, which seemed well established in Somalia. It is also another reminder that nationalism is stronger than ideology in Africa.

It is still difficult to say whether the Soviet Union was really aware of this when it started supporting the ostensibly Marxist regime in Ethiopia. It may have calculated that Ethiopia was larger and better placed than Somalia and decided to switch its allegiance accordingly, especially as Ethiopia is also host to the OAU. But it seems to have nurtured at least some illusions that a common ideology would bridge the enmity between the two. When President Castro went to Aden in the spring he suggested a "socialist union" of Aden, Somalia and Ethiopia, and he would not have done this without Soviet support.

The idea could look logical to someone in Moscow with a geographical or ideological map spread out before him. A political, tribal and religious map would have told a different and far more complex story. The Somalis believe they have a very strong claim to the Ogaden area and are not likely to give it up merely because a regime in Addis Ababa calls itself Marxist. Nor could Soviet moves do anything but strengthen Arab support for Somalia and for the Arab desire to make the Red Sea a "peace zone" free of domination by outside powers. This in turn could not fail to increase Ethiopia's worry that Somalia and the Sudan are trying to cut her off from access to the sea through newly independent Djibouti, which carries about 80 per cent of her foreign trade.

Thus instead of achieving a comfortable union of three client states the Soviet Union has exacerbated an already delicate and difficult situation and made itself bitterly hated in Somalia. The Arabs are now offering substantial aid to Somalia while the Israelis, allegedly with some American encouragement, find themselves in the curious position of supplying the Ethiopian forces with captured Russian weapons in a sort of tacit alliance with the Russians themselves, and their Cuban helpers. An odder and more unstable situation could scarcely be imagined. For the moment Somalia's military advance seems to have been halted by the much strengthened Ethiopians, but there is no reason to think that the fighting is going to stop. Nor is any easy answer in sight. If nothing else the Russians and the Americans should dust off their old agreement of 1972 in which they rather unrealistically promised not to try to take advantage of situations of this sort.

THE MONEY MATTERS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

On Friday Mr Peter Shore will make his annual announcement of how much of next year's local government spending he means to meet from a central grant. It is usually an occasion full of anguish, with loud protestations that this time the Secretary of State has gone too far, and that unconscionable demands will have to be made of the ratepayers to make up. But this year, oddly enough, the anguish will almost be outweighed by other feelings, even including relief. The days are past when local spending was seen by all concerned as a yeasty factor impossible to keep down. Councils have been so successful in keeping their expenditure within cash limits this year that there is some embarrassment over the possibility that they may even fall short. Their record is one that central government may indeed look on in some envy.

The other traditional object of interest in the Rate Support Grant announcement is the proportion of anticipated spending that the Government decides to accept the bill for. In each of the last two years progress has been made in bringing it down. But the Government will be more than usually anxious to avoid large rate rises in a year with important local elections and a good chance of a general election too. So little change can be expected.

All this means that the main excitement in the negotiations has not been between the local authority associations and government, but between the associations themselves. There is always tension between shire counties and metropolitan authorities about the way the grant is shared. This year it has been the main haggling-point. Dissatisfaction with the insufferably intricate formula for distribution has never been so widespread. A Labour government is naturally predisposed to favour metropolitan areas, and this year the intention of concentrating resources on inner cities has already been made clear. But in an attempt to avoid loss of votes, another equation may be added to the formula to give relief to counties which come off worst in this exchange (the effects vary widely from one county to another). This fresh complication will give the distribution formula still less of a claim to be an objective system based on need. Since it assesses need largely in terms of what each council is spending already, it is as unrealistic as it is complex.

It will almost be a relief to the associations to have next year's RSG settlement made public. That will make manifest how restricted they are in responding to the wage claims of their employees. For their success this year in holding back spending has depended on the fact that rigid pay controls made wage bills predictable. Cash limits are to continue, but there is little prospect that settlements will remain within the bounds of their assumptions. Councils are in danger of being trapped between importunate employees and an inflexible government: large rises for council workers will be reflected more directly than ever before in truncated services and higher rate demands.

All the publicity devoted lately to the firemen and miners has largely distracted attention from another set of pay negotiations which are in one respect more significant than either. Firemen and miners are groups relatively small in numbers: if they win excessive rises they will be important principally as examples to others. So will the council manual workers, whose representatives last week rejected a 10.1 per cent offer; but since there are a million of them, their settlement will also have a direct effect on purchasing power and inflation. Members of the National Union of Public Employees will be balloted over the next two weeks to see whether they endorse their negotiators' action. They include many whose pay is low and few who have any prospect of extra earnings through real or bogus productivity deals. At a time when there is so much pressure for the repair of differentials, a settlement over the odds would provide a base line for many others to build on. Capitulation to the firemen or the miners might be explained away more or less implausibly as exceptional; capitulation to the council manual workers would be to swing the door wide open to all.

POLITICAL STABILITY AT A PRICE IN NEPAL

Almost every country in Asia salutes democracy as a political ideal even if—temporarily, of course—states of emergency or military rule or other departures from representative government are actually in being. One country that seems to ignore this preference is Nepal, a monarchy where any monarch of the past might find royal authority functioning much as it did before universal franchise was ever heard of. This rejection of the ballot box has been sadly illustrated by the long political career of Mr B. P. Koirala, the protagonist of democracy ever since the overthrow of the Rana regime in 1951. Last week he found himself rearrested to stand trial for treason.

Mr Koirala had returned to Nepal from many years exile in India at the end of 1976 only to find himself arrested. Last June, with the King's authority and at the state's expense, he went to America for medical treatment declaring his intention to return, though perhaps hoping that when he did so the charges against him might be dropped. He has been disappointed. It seems that since his own overthrow as the first elected Prime Minister of Nepal in 1960 his presence is still regarded as a danger. Nepal will stick to its "partyless panchayat" rather than risk an advance towards one man one vote.

In fact, the intention to rearrest Mr Koirala had been indicated a few days before his return by Mr Kirtinidhi Bista, who returned to office as Nepal's Prime Minister last September. Mr Bista claimed that Nepal's political stability was the most reliable in South Asia and that this was due to the leadership of the King to which there could be no alternative. As expounded by another minister, partyless panchayats enable the people of Nepal to make known their aspirations to the King who is kept fully informed. An old-fashioned socialist like Mr Koirala, who made some comments about his country while in America and who actually looked in on the Labour Party conference in Brighton, on his way home, scarcely fits with this kind of paternalism.

But there are other objections that tell against Mr Koirala. Nepal's short history as a country has been one lived between China and India as major powers. Nepal remained a tributary of China as late as 1908 but long before that British power in India had begun to matter much more. And since communist rule in China independent India has been the power watching over Nepal. Too closely, for Nepal's taste which has been making friends of the Chinese as a balance, thereby arousing Indian suspicion. Mr Koirala's party having been modelled on the Indian Congress, and he having spent his exile in India, having been backed by Indian leaders and having had Mr Chandra Shekhar, late of Congress now of the Janata Party, making the case in Katmandu for his return to Nepal in freedom, it would not be surprising that the anti-Indian faction in Katmandu should urge his continued detention. Dr Tulsi Giri, the late Prime Minister, once suggested that India might treat Nepal as China had done Tibet—a remark that gave equal offence in Peking and in New Delhi. But with new governments in both these capitals Nepal's security between the two might soon seem less at risk. Meanwhile Mr Koirala's political freedom is overdue.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Refurbishing the SS image

From Professor Willi Frischauer

Sir, While hoping that weightier voices than mine will be raised in protest against the invasion of Britain by ex-Nazi SS campaigners to publicize an encomium of their pernicious organization, I should like to remind a younger generation of some aspects of SS activities beyond those mentioned in Antony Terry's excellent account in yesterday's *Sunday Times* Magazine (November 13).

The SS propagandists make much play with the difference between the so-called Waffen-SS (military units) and other SS divisions such as the "Death Head Brigade," which supplied the concentration camp guards, the "Leibstandarte" (Hitler's praetorian guard) and others. But there was constant movement of officers and men from one division to another—SS General Otto Eicke, for instance, commander of the concentration camp guards was later transferred to the eastern front where he was killed.

Did this transfer at a late date absolve him—and his men—from crimes committed against concentration camp inmates? SS General Sepp Dietrich, commander of a military SS division in the war started his career by taking part, with a revolver in his hand, in the massacre of officers of the rival SA (brown shirts) in the notorious Night of the Long Knives, the Roehm Purge, in June 1934.

SS Einsatz Gruppen (Action Groups) "fought" partisans on the eastern front, which means that they wiped out whole villages, indiscriminately murdering old men, women and children. Action Group leaders like SS General Ohlendorf were sentenced to death and executed after the war but many of his officers and men have survived. Again there was regular transfer from Waffen-SS to Action Groups and vice versa as there was between the Waffen-SS and the SD (Security Service) and the Gestapo, both SS departments.

All members of the SS were obliged to swear an oath of allegiance to SS leader Heinrich Himmler, mastermind (with such aides as SS Colonel Adolf Eichmann) of the extermination of Jews, Poles, Russians, gypsies—to mention only a few categories of SS victims. At Nuremberg, the SS—no distinction here between one division and another—was condemned generally as a criminal organization.

That survivors of these divisions should come together in a so-called aid organization (HIAG) and actively promote the "rehabilitation" of the SS is a problem for the German Government and the German people but it is a tragedy that this stimulates a revival of antagonism which the country of Helmut Schmidt and Willy Brandt no longer deserves. An even greater tragedy is that the shameless propaganda of the SS survivors serves the vicious Red Army Faction as a pretence for the murderous campaign allegedly directed against Nazism in Germany.

Again, this would seem a matter for the Germans. But it takes on a different aspect when these SS men begin to export their campaign to foreign countries. That they should come to Britain, as they propose to do this week, to propagate their evil wares is an outrage to which the British people ought not to be subjected.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
WILLI FRISCHAUER,
45 Ansley House,
St John's Wood, NW8.
November 14.

Employers' offer to firemen

From Mr Martin Brannan

Sir, As Employers' Chairman of the National Joint Council for Local Authorities' Fire Brigades, I should like to clarify our position in the present dispute.

On Friday last, after lengthy talks with the union negotiators, we confirmed that our previous offer of a 10 per cent wage increase as from November 7 still stood, this being the maximum figure possible within Government guidelines. We also agreed to continue discussions with a view to establishing a pay formula for the Qualified Firemen, to be implemented when conditions permit and to be one that would stand up to scrutiny and be valid in the longer term.

In view of the statement in the House of Commons by the Home Secretary on November 9 that a 42-hour week for firemen instead of the present 48-hour week could be permitted after autumn 1978 and in view of the subsequent registering of this claim by the union, we agreed that a full investigation should commence forthwith into the issues involved. A recent Home Office report on the subject of a shorter working week stressed that it ought "to be introduced in the most cost effective manner, making maximum use of time available for work". However it is accomplished, there will be a considerable cost factor and it must be presumed that adequate funds will be made available to local authorities for this purpose. The two matters, ie, the wage formula and the proposed shorter working week, have been remitted to the Joint Secretaries so that they may identify the problems and report back to the National Council at its meeting on November 16.

The National Employers' meanwhile, deeply regret the present industrial action and hope that, in the light of the steps being taken, there can be an early and orderly return to normal manning. As employers, we have the utmost regard for the well-being and the reputation of the British Fire Service and have no intention of allowing the talks either to break down or become bogged down. There are however many far-reaching aspects which must be investigated so as to enable sensible conclusions to be fairly arrived at and this can be done the more readily in the context of normal working.

Yours truly,
MARTIN BRANNAN,
Lingy Acre,
Portinscale,
Keswick,
Cumbria.
November 14.

From Mr C. J. P. Power

Sir, I am becoming more than a little bored with hearing appeals to the "social responsibility" of certain groups who are intending to, or who are taking, industrial action, whether to a greater or lesser degree. Does the Government have no other ideas, or does it believe that such appeals have some magic ingredient which, having worked so often in the past, will do the trick again?; to me, it looks like a dead horse.

Are we not prepared to suffer a little darkness or take more care in fire prevention so as to support the Government in its attempts to resuscitate the economy, and is that Government not prepared to take on its shoulders the burden of doing the job it was elected to do? It would seem that such is the case and that we will continue to ask those who provide important services to work longer hours or to receive less pay than we would ourselves be prepared to accept.

The right to withdraw labour or to decline to work overtime is basic to our political and economic system so let us make up our minds to be socially responsible and pay for work done, or else accept the inconvenience for as long as is necessary or we can stand it.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. P. POWER,
Barley End House,
Woodmancote,
Near Emsworth,
Hampshire.
November 11.

From Mr A. G. W. Scott

Sir, I am not a supporter of the Labour Party but fairness prohibits agreement with the views expressed by Sir Kenneth Corley and the Reverend Montague Eyden that in no circumstances is there moral justification for strikes and that they should always be treated as a form of blackmail.

Should not the actions which deserve all of your correspondents' strictures be confined to unofficial actions, strikes at short notice, working to rule and withdrawal of labour whilst meetings are held.

Such actions must almost always be a breach of contract with the employers concerned and in any other context retribution would follow. The innocent public are not only made to suffer but, in addition, are subjected to nauseating statements that "inconvenience to the public is regretted" whilst good care has been taken to choose a time and place which will cause the greatest possible inconvenience and suffering.

This is blackmail, and should no longer be tolerated in a civilized society. Surely the time has come for the Government and the TUC to agree upon legislation with sufficient bite to make such illegal and immoral actions impossible. This would not only protect the public but strengthen the position of the unions who must, and usually do, conduct their negotiations in a constitutional manner.

Yours faithfully,
A. G. W. SCOTT,
5 Breakspeare,
College Road,
Dulwich, SE21.
November 12.

Head teachers and governors' powers

From Mr H. R. Eastgate

Sir, May a non-disheartened head with a thriving Parent-Teachers' Association inform Dr Midwinter (November 10) that there are grave doubts about the viability of jumble sales, Christmas markets, summer fairs, visits to the Wakefield Theatre Club, and trips to the Isle of Wight, etc, as occasions for the election of school governors if only from considerations of electoral roll, possible personation, etc. Events which attract the greatest numbers of parents also attract many non-parent adults. They also repel a significant number of excellent parents.

However, the crucial weakness in the Taylor Report comes early on, in Para 3.17. ". . . and as much discretion in turn granted to the head-teacher by the governing body as is compatible with the latter's responsibility for the success of the school in all its activities."

Responsible to whom? Accountable to whom? The Director of Education and I are responsible and accountable to the Education Committee. Our very jobs and our professional reputations are at stake.

What will the members of a Taylor style governing body have at stake? Re-appointment at the end of their four year stint?

Yours faithfully,
H. R. EASTGATE,
Headmaster, the Benjamin Gott High School,
Lenhurst Avenue, Leeds.
November 10.

From the Reverend John Key

Sir, The issues of the debate about parental choice of education within the maintained school system are well set out in your leading article of November 9. But why should parents' choice depend so heavily on a plurality of schools in one locality?

My recent visit to an exciting "community school" in Massachusetts has convinced me that a wide variety of parental choice can be exercised within a single school. Under one roof and one administration I discovered the encouragement of different patterns and styles of education, from extreme academic formality to an atmosphere of free expression and discovery. The rights of parents were recognized and their involvement invited in the "allocation" of their children to particular classes and courses.

Surely the necessary rationalization you expect in Britain, in the interests of economy and efficiency, affords a splendid opportunity for parents' rights to be enhanced and for teachers' skills and preferences to be developed within schools of diverse character and tradition. Would not such schools enshrine vital "comprehensive" principles too?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KEY,
Vicar of Redditch,
248 Birchfield Road,
Redditch, Worcestershire.

Employment in Russia

From Mr Yorick Wilks

Sir, Mr Kitson is surely right to remind us, on the sixtieth anniversary of the October Revolution, of the Soviet achievement in overcoming unemployment problems. There are, after all, more than a hundred thousand men guarding bridges, are there not (a job preservation scheme maintained since Tsarist days); enormous but undisclosed numbers in the secret police; diminishing, but still considerable numbers staffing and controlling the labour camps and, at over four million men, one of the largest standing armies in the world.

There is little doubt that we could abolish unemployment (at a stroke, as it were) by allowing employment in these categories to rise to the proportions enjoyed by our Soviet comrades. I trust that Mr Kitson, on his return, will be pressing such red-blooded measures on his colleagues in the National Executive Committee, so as to show the sort of Labour Party he wants: a genuine alternative to the milksop measures against unemployment that we have seen from this Government.

Yours sincerely,
YORICK WILKS,
University of Essex,
Department of Language and Linguistics,
Wivenhoe Park,
Colchester,
Essex.
November 9.

Legislation on race

From Mr Geoffrey Bindman

Sir, Mr Butt evidently resents Mr David Lane's charge that his article on the Race Relations Act (October 27) distorts and misleads, but his answer to the accusation itself contains an error. The Commission for Racial Equality is not entitled to take up any complaint. It may assist individuals to pursue their own cases, but only when they seek assistance and when the criteria (admittedly wide) laid down in section 66 of the Act are satisfied.

However, this is a minor element in the very unbalanced picture which Mr Butt paints of a moderate and necessary piece of legislation. The following points, absent from Mr Butt's account, show that it is neither "impalpable" nor oppressive, and that it can be effective.

1. The Act does not attempt to ban racially prejudiced thoughts or the expression of prejudiced opinions; harmful discriminatory conduct in matters of social or economic importance is its only target. Mr Butt's Dr Johnson story nicely illustrates the distinction: he may have been prejudiced against the Scotch, but he had the wisdom and decency not to discriminate against them. The law does not and should not penalize attitudes, but judges are quite capable of assessing conduct.

2. The powers of the Commission to obtain evidence in its investigations are no greater than those of many other statutory bodies (for example the Highlands and Islands Development Board) and a good deal less than some. Furthermore these powers are subject to the close supervision of the courts, which alone can impose sanctions.

3. Legal proceedings under the Act are civil, and can result only in a declaration, injunction or compensation. Their object is not to punish the discriminator but to end discriminatory conduct and provide redress to its victims.

4. Your report yesterday (November 10) from Michael Leapman in New York confirms the deterrent effect there of heavy damages awards in sex and race discrimination cases. Anti-discrimination laws can work, if enforced firmly and confidently.

What worries me most about Mr Butt's attitude is its weakness in the face of a major injustice and serious potential threat to the stability of our society. I believe he is not against using the orderly processes of the law to combat other wrongs. Why is this one different?

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY BINDMAN,
1 Euston Road,
King's Cross, NW1.
November 11.

London Film Festival

From the Director of the British Film Institute

Sir, James Quinn's letter concerning the London Film Festival (November 11) leaves me somewhat perplexed. Naturally the British Film Institute is proud of the 25 years of remarkably successful activity achieved by the National Film Theatre which is one of its departments, and the more recent "coming of age" of the London Film Festival for which it is also responsible. As I write this response to his letter, headlines from two national journals celebrating this event lay before me on my desk, showing that at least as far as the press is concerned the message has got through.

Perhaps Mr Quinn believes that we should spend money (public or private) on other kinds of celebration, and indeed the LFF has organized its fair share of appropriate events. We do feel, however, that we should spend our resources making accessible as many of the best films as possible, and bringing to this country many of the film makers whose work is being shown in the Festival, and this is what we have done.

The 21st London Film Festival, which is opened this evening (November 14) by Lord Donaldson, Minister for the Arts, is truly celebrated by the many thousands of cinemagoers who will have an opportunity of seeing the films which make up the Festival programme.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH LUCAS,
Director,
British Film Institute,
81 Dean Street, W1.
November 14.

The Zinoviev Letter

From Mr Kyril Zinovieff

Sir, Since the most convincing arguments in favour of the genuineness, or at least communist provenance, of the "Zinoviev Letter" are contained in Natalie Grant's article in *Soviet Studies* (Vol XIX, 1967), which none of *The Times* correspondents on the subject appear to have seen, let me refer to two points out of the many she makes.

1 The Zinoviev Letter, dated September 15 1924, reached the British Foreign Office on October 10 1924. It reproduced the sense and some of the actual expressions and phrases of a resolution passed at the 5th Congress of the Communist International, addressed specifically to the British Communist Party. The Congress took place in June-July 1924, but the text of the resolution was released in 1925. The writer(s) of the "Zinoviev Letter" must, therefore, have had access to the resolution *before* it was published—not something likely to have been accomplished by anti- or non-Communist forgers.

2 With one or two exceptions, all the men mentioned or suggested as the letter's forgers have turned out later to be either Soviet agents or closely connected with Soviet agents.

Attempts to discredit the authenticity of the letter by pointing out errors have so far failed: the "errors" have on examination turned out not to be such. Messrs Rothstein and Page Arnot (*The Times*, November 9) scoff at the letter because it refers to "non-existent 'military cells'", yet it is precisely to "cells in bourgeois armies" that the Comintern resolution refers and the "Zinoviev Letter" duly repeats.

In any case, the fact that the substance of the "Zinoviev Letter" is contained in the Comintern resolution surely makes the question of whether it was or was not "genuine" entirely irrelevant.

Yours, etc.
KYRIL ZINOVIEFF,
2 Arlington Cottages,
Sutton Lane, W4.

Classical top ten

From Mr David Chesterman

Sir, Analysis of all symphonies scheduled for performance at the Royal Albert and Royal Festival Halls during 1977 reveals that Beethoven's lead over all comers is now higher than it has ever been since my calculations started 26 years ago. He clocks up 60, with Mozart, the runner-up, a mere 26, and Tchaikovsky (with two Manfreds) 25.

Brahms has done well with 22, ahead of Mahler with 18 2 5 (Adagietto of No 5 and Adagio of No. 10). Haydn remains the same with 17, and Dvorak with 15, followed by Schubert (14), Bruckner (14) and Shostakovich (11). As eleventh man, Sibelius scores a respectable 10.

The outright winner (11 times) is the "New World" symphony of Dvorak, which claimed similar honours in 1974 and 1975, to be temporarily ousted in 1976 by Beethoven's "Eroica".

Readers may like to note some symphonies by the Top Ten composers which do not figure at all this year: Dvorak Nos. 1-4 inclusive, Schubert Nos. 1, 5, 6, 7, Bruckner Nos. 1, 6 and Shostakovich Nos. 2, 3, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CHESTERMAN,
15 Shire Lane,
Chorleywood,
Hertfordshire.
November 12.

Kral's visit to Britain

From Mr George Mikes

Sir, Permit me to add a footnote to Bernard Levin's column on Václav Král whom he called a scoundrel (November 2). Professors Carsten and Seton-Watson said in their letter (November 5) that "our information about this man agrees entirely with Bernard Levin's account". I can report yet another agreement, the views of Gustav Husak, the pocket-dictator of Czechoslovakia and the persecutor of Havel, Lederer and others.

A report of the Prague show trials of October 17 and 18 has just reached me through Czech friends. One of the so-called charges was that a manuscript, written by Dr Prokop Drtina, a minister in President Benes's Government, had been passed on by some of the accused for publication in the United States. Havel replied that the memoirs had been, at one time, accepted for publication in Czechoslovakia itself and had become a widely quoted source for scholarly, historical research.

There was only one person, he went on, who called the memoirs untruthful and that was Václav Král. He was not surprised, Havel added, but Král's views were utterly worthless as the man had been called "notorious among historians for his methods" by Husak himself. As evidence, Havel went on to say, he would now read excerpts from Husak's essay, entitled "A Stroll Through History". In that essay, Havel remarked as a preliminary, Husak called Král "a known falsifier of history whose works are a warning example of scientific and dogmatic presentation of history".

At this point Havel was interrupted and prevented from reading the essay or even paraphrasing its contents. The presiding judge remarked: "This is of no interest to the court." What he meant: this is not in the interest of the court.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
GEORGE MIKES,
1b Dorncliffe Road, SW6.

What Cezanne painted

From Mr George Butler

Sir, Mr Brogan, in his article (November 9) on the wonderful Cézanne exhibition in New York, repeats a curious error in the catalogue, which has often appeared in catalogues at the Tate. He refers to the "Mont" Ste Victoire.

I have lived within a kilometre of that "grand caillou", as the natives call it. A neighbour, who incidentally had once gone sketching with Paul Cézanne, admonished me for using the word "mont". He said "Mont Blanc" but "La Montagne Sainte Victoire".

Of course he was right, as all French maps show, and in fact the Ste Victoire is a long lozenge or chain, not a peak.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE BUTLER,
Riversdale,
Castle Street,
Bakewell,
Derbyshire.
November 9.

Silencing burglar alarms

From Mr Anthony Bailey

Sir, The interesting thing about burglar alarms is that no one associates their endless ringing with burglars. Many of the children in this neighbourhood know how to set them off by banging a window frame or kicking a door.

Recently one of the alarms near us clanged away (I timed it) for an hour and a half before I called the police station. The officer on duty said, "Oh yes, we know about that one"—adding, as is usual, "We're trying to track down the key-holder". I asked when he had been notified. He said, "Three minutes ago". I pointed out that the alarm had been sounding for one hour and 27 minutes before anyone did anything about it. "We know", he said. "No one pays any attention to them unless they want them stopped."

Obviously a good time to commit a burglary is when an alarm is sounding.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY BAILEY,
63 Royal Hill,
Greenwich, SE10.
November 8.

Middle income litigants

From Mr David Edwards

Sir, Your leading article on middle income litigants (October 13) exaggerates the shortcomings of the civil legal aid scheme. At The Law Society's Conference the President said that civil legal aid now covered only about a quarter of average families, ie, those with two children. Because it does cover most single parent families and most retired people, legal aid is available to about 42 per cent of the entire population, not a quarter as your leader said.

Your leader also states incorrectly that to raise the legal aid limits to cover most of the population would be "exceedingly costly and would not be justified in the present state of the economy". In fact to increase the limits to include at least another 20 per cent of the population would not be very expensive because all the newly eligible would have to pay at least some contribution to their legal aid. This reform is urgently necessary, with or without the introduction of the contingency legal aid proposal with which your leader was concerned.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID EDWARDS,
Secretary, Legal Aid,
The Law Society,
113 Chancery Lane, WC2.
October 13.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 14: Mr J. B. Priestley had the honour of being received by The Queen this afternoon when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Member of the Order of Merit.

The Lord Todd had the honour of being received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Member of the Order of Merit.

The Queen was entertained at dinner this evening by the Court of Directors of the Bank of England.

Her Majesty was received upon arrival by the Governor (the Right Hon Gordon Richardson).

The Lady Susan Hussey, the Right Hon Sir Philip Moore and Lieutenant Robert Guy, RN, were in attendance.

Today is the Anniversary of the Birthday of The Prince of Wales.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 14: The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior of the Order of St John, held an investiture this afternoon at St John's Gate, EC1, in the course of which His Royal Highness invested Sir Zelman Cowen as an Associate Knight and Lady Cowen as an Associate Commander.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Bland was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
November 14: The Duke of Kent, President of the Royal Choral Society, today attended a Silver Jubilee Concert given by the Society at the Royal Festival Hall.

Lieutenant-Commander Richard Buckley, RN, was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
November 14: Princess Alexandra, Colonel-in-Chief of The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's), this afternoon received Colonel the Hon J. R. Nicholson, Honorary Colonel, and Lieutenant-Colonel D. T. Osland, Commanding Officer.

The centenary dinner of St Gregory's Society will be held at the Hilton hotel on Thursday, December 8. Tickets £8 (£6) may be obtained from Dom Cuthbert McCann, Downside Abbey, Bath.

Birthdays today

Sir Olaf Caroe, 85; Sir Hugh Greene, 67; Mr Hamish Hamilton, 77; Mr Averell Harriman, 86; Miss G. Ceris Jones, 71; Sir Richard Le Gallais, 61; Mr Wallace Rowling, 50; Major-General J. K. Shepheard, 69; Sir Sacheverell Sitwell, 80; Air Vice-Marshal Sir John Weston, 69.

Prince goes hunting

The Prince of Wales, who was 29 yesterday, went fox-hunting with the Middleton Hunt at Garrowby, about 15 miles east of York, *as a guest of the Earl of* Halifax and his son, Lord Irwin.

The Royal Society

The Royal Society has made the following appointments and awards.

Henry Dale Research Professor: Dr R. L. Gardner, lecturer in development and reproduction in the department of zoology, Oxford University.
Wolfson Research Professor: Dr A. R. Fersht, Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge.
Weir Research Fellowship: Dr P. N. Wilkinson, *previously at Owens Valley* Radio Observatory, California Institute of Technology.
Ernest Cook Trust Research Fellowships: Mr K. J. Richards, department of oceanography, Southampton University; Dr G. J. Smith, Fels Research Institute, *Temple University Medical* School, Philadelphia.
Copley Medal: Dr F. Sanger, FRS, Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge.
Davy Medal: Professor A. R. Battersby, FRS, professor of organic chemistry, Cambridge University.
Buchanan Medal: Sir David Evans, FRS, Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, Oxford University.
Hughes Medal: Professor A. Hewish, FRS, professor of radioastronomy, Cambridge University.

Posthumous award

Mr Alan Brant, of Cateswell Road, Birmingham, who died of a heart attack at the age of 49 after disarming a woman who was attempting to stab her husband, has been awarded a posthumous memorial certificate by the Carnegie Hero Fund Trust, at Dunfermline. The trust has granted £100 and £2 a week to Mr Brant's widow.

25 years ago

The wizard of Oz

From The Times of Friday, Nov 14, 1952

From Our Special Correspondent
Naivasha, Rift Valley, Nov 13.—An eminent witch doctor, known locally as the Wizard of Oz, arrived today from the Kikuyu reserves to conduct cleansing ceremonies among Kikuyu workers on European farms here. It is expected that many who have unwillingly taken the Mau Mau oath will require his services. He is accompanied by a young Kikuyu chief, clad in a red blanket and a raglan coat. His function is to see that the wizard keeps within his terms of reference and does not stray into sidelines, such as placing curses on cattle. The wizard himself is anxious to preserve anonymity, and accordingly had no statement to make to your correspondent. The chief accompanying him, however, said he was a witch doctor with power to administer or undo the most powerful oaths known to the Kikuyu. The procedure is that penitents come forward, and a sheep is killed. They confess to having taken the Mau Mau oath and, having eaten a sheep's eye, renounce and denounce the oath.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. M. Dawson and Miss L. M. Rose
The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Mr and Mrs C. Dawson, of Horley, Surrey, and Lynda, only daughter of Mr and Mrs E. M. Rose, of Wirral, Cheshire.

Dr C. Grey-Wilson and Miss C. M. Dent
The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of Mr and Mrs V. Grey-Wilson, of Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, and Christine Mary, fourth daughter of the late Professor Charles Dent and of Mrs Dent, of Ealing, London.

Mr J. J. Pearmund and Miss C. M. E. Misselbrook
The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Mr and Mrs R. E. Pearmund, of Wentworth, Surrey, and Christine, only daughter of Wing Commander T. D. Misselbrook, DFC, RAF (Retd), and Mrs Misselbrook, of Old Windsor, Berkshire.

Marriage

Mr R. L. Mackay and Miss A. J. McCorquodale
The marriage took place on Friday, November 11, at Helmsdale, Sutherland, between Mr Raymond Mackay, elder son of the late Mr R. H. Mackay and Mrs A. Mackay, of Skerray, Sutherland, and Miss Jill McCorquodale, daughter of Colonel and Mrs D. McCorquodale, of Kelso, Roxburgh.

Inner Temple

The following awards have been announced by the Inner Temple: Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Scholarship (£2,000): J. Beale. Inner Temple Scholarship (£2,000): M. G. Skinner; (£1,500): C. J. Willmore; (£1,000): G. C. Vos. Inner Temple Grants (£1,250 each): I. M. Bourne, F. G. Burrell, R. P. Davis, C. A. Dodgson, A. J. Elleray, G. S. J. Kealey, D. A. Pearl, I. N. Wheatly; (£850 each): J. M. Flaux, V. A. Glyn, A. D. Goodman, I. D. Grainger, J. C. Murrin, M. P. H. Pooles, G. J. P. Rennuf, G. D. Roome. Yarborough-Anderson Scholarships (£100 a year for 3 years): T. N. B. Higginson, D. Iles, J. E. G. Ray. Ashworth Scholarships (£100 a year for 3 years): J. P. Burdett, J. P. Corbett. Philip Teichman Scholarship (£75 a year for 3 years): C. W. Lewis. Profumo Scholarships (£52.60 a year for 2 years): S. Bedell-Pearce, A. W. Robinson, R. McC. Thoresby. Neville Laski Scholarship (£100): J. M. C. Bryant. Geoffrey Veale Scholarship (£100): M. C. Hicks. Paul Methven Scholarship: M. W. Jones. Forster Boulton Prize: J. M. C. Bryant. Kenneth Solomon Prize: M. C. Hicks.

Applications for Silk

Applicants for Silk who wish their names to be considered for the next list of recommendations, and those who wish to renew their applications, should apply for a form to the Permanent Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Office, House of Lords, London, SW1, enclosing a self-addressed envelope. The form should be returned to the Lord Chancellor's Office by December 31.

Mrs Millie Miller, MP

A fund for the planting of a grove of trees in memory of Mrs Millie Miller, Labour MP for Redbridge, Ilford, North, who died last month, is being set up by the North London Progressive Synagogue. The trees will be planted in the grounds of Dr Barnardo's, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Greater London, and the fund will also be used to make a contribution to work in the mental health field, in which Mrs Miller was interested.

Cheques and postal orders should be sent to: NLPS (M.M. Fund), Mr J. Swinburne, 203 Tiptree Crescent, Clayhall Avenue, Ilford.

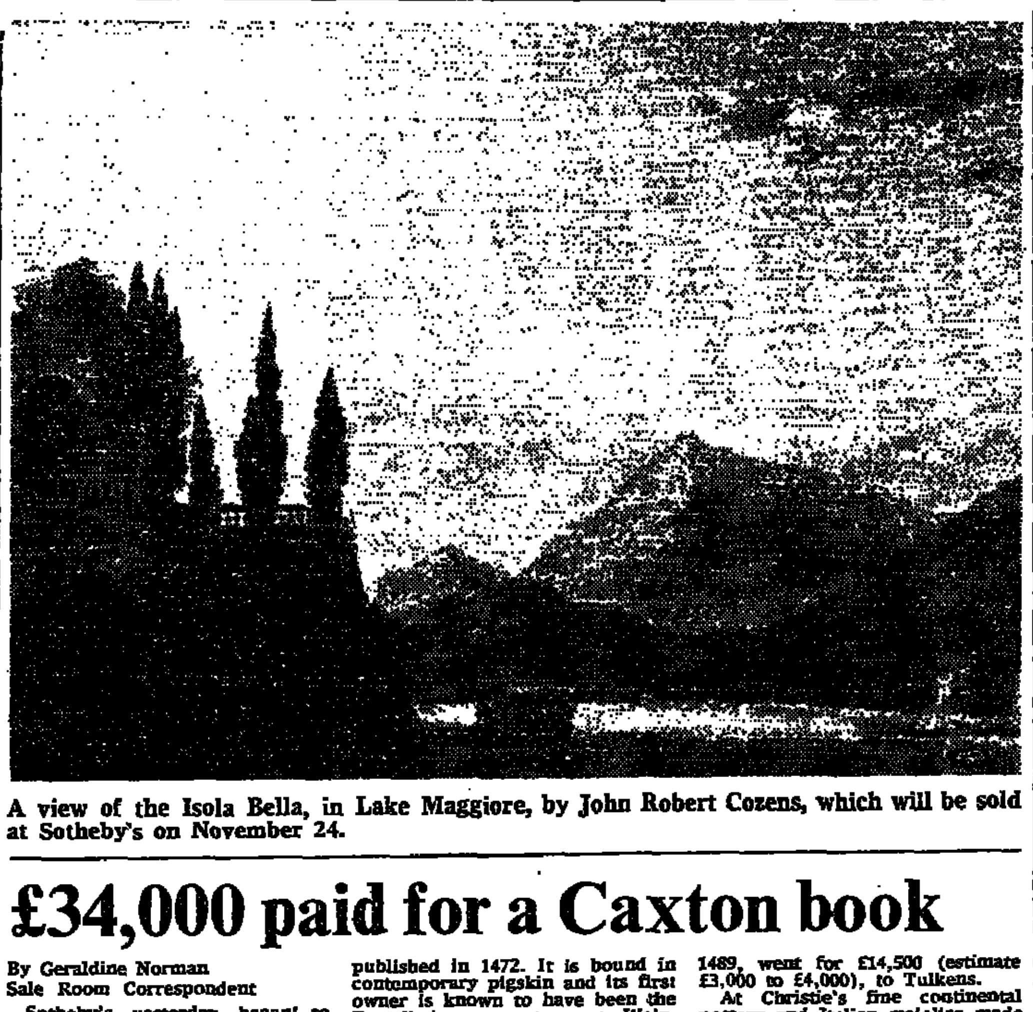
Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:
Brigadier M. B. Farndale, Director of Public Relations (Army), to be *Director Military Operations*, Ministry of Defence, in March 1978 in the rank of major-general.

Mr J. D. Hennings to be High Commissioner to Singapore in March, in succession to Mr J. P. Tripp.

Mr C. T. Brant to be Ambassador to Qatar in January, in succession to Mr D. G. Crawford.

Miss Joyce Blow (Mrs A. Darlington) to be Director of the Consumer Affairs Division of the Office of Fair Trading, from *November 28, with the rank of* under-secretary. She succeeds Mr Jeremy Mitchell, now Director of the National Consumer Council.



A view of the Isola Bella, in Lake Maggiore, by John Robert Cozens, which will be sold at Sotheby's on November 24.

£34,000 paid for a Caxton book

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

Sotheby's yesterday began to disperse one of the most notable *private libraries formed in recent* times, by Albert Ehrman (1890-1969). It was known as the Broxbourne library after his family home, and important sections of *the library have already been* given or sold to the British Library, the Bodleian, Cambridge University library and others.

Yesterday's sale was devoted to the *spread* of printing in Europe and made £288,970 with no lots unsold; a second, similar sale, is scheduled for today, with two more for next spring. Many of the books were so rare that Sotheby's were more or less guessing with their estimates, and prices soared above them.

The top price of £34,000 (estimate £3,000 to £4,000) was paid by H. P. Kraus, of New York, for the first book on which William Caxton is known to have worked when he was learning his trade in Cologne. It is *De Proprietatibus Rerum* by Batholomaeus Anglicus, published in 1472. It is bound in contemporary pigskin and its first owner is known to have been the Benedictine monastery at Weingarten. A copy of the same book from the Heber library was sold by Sotheby's in 1972 for £2,200. The Heber copy was an eighteenth-century rather than a contemporary binding.

The sale is arranged in alphabetical order of the towns where the books were printed and began with a volume published in Abbeville in 1487 at £16,000 (estimate £2,000 to £3,000). Entitled *Triomphe des neuf preux avec l'histoire de Bertrand du Guesclin*, it was the third and last book printed at Abbeville in the fifteenth century. There are 10 large woodcuts in the text. The buyer was Tulkens, of Brussels.

Breslauer paid £33,000 (estimate £5,000 to £6,000) for a *Kalender* printed in Augsburg by Johann Blaubirer in 1481. With 80 leaves, it included 93 woodcuts. The *Legenda Aurea* by Jacobus de Voragine in Dutch with 204 woodcut illustrations, published in Delft 1489, went for £14,500 (estimate £3,000 to £4,000), to Tulkens.

At Christie's fine continental pottery and Italian majolica made £68,712, with 13 per cent unsold. A Venice globular vase of the sixteenth century painted with a continuous landscape and standing 35cm high made £5,200 (estimate £3,000 to £4,000). A set of 12 Dutch Delft blue-and-white pancake plates decorated with biblical subjects and dating from the eighteenth century made £4,100 (estimate £800 to £1,200) in spite of damage.

Christie's sale of oriental ceramics and works of art made £25,738, with 17 per cent unsold.

A sale of middle-range Old Master pictures at Phillips proved outstandingly successful, totalling £172,500, with only 1 per cent unsold. An "Open landscape with horseman", by Phillips Wouwerman, made £11,000 (estimate £1,500), to Fricker, who also paid £11,000 (estimate £8,000) for a flower still-life by Jean Baptiste Monnoyer and £10,000 (estimate £8,000 to £10,000) for a coastal scene by Theobald Michau.

'Times' critic wins Smith award for Slim biography

By Philip Howard

Ronald Lewin has won the W. H. Smith and Son literary award for *Slim: The Standardbearer*, his official biography of Field-Marshal Viscount Slim. Lord Trevelyan is to present a cheque for £1,000 today at a luncheon, to be attended by members of the family.

The book was widely reviewed as a fine piece of writing that got Slim plumb right. It has already sold 13,000 copies in hardback.

Mr Lewin was born in 1914 in Halifax, and won a scholarship to The Queen's College, Oxford, where he took a double first in Mods and Greats. For most of the war he served as a field artillery officer, with the Eighth Army from Alamein to Tunisia, and then from *Normandy to the end in* Germany. After the war he joined BBC Radio and eventually became Head of the Home Service.

After his retirement he returned *to his first job, publishing, and* started writing regularly. With more time and fewer responsibilities he devoted himself to military history, taking the view that as the war had removed six years from his life he had better try to find out what happened during *that parenthesis*.

He is a regular critic of books about the Second World War for *The Times* and *The Times Literary Supplement*.

For his biography of Slim he travelled widely. He visited Australia to examine Slim's remarkable period as Governor-General and to talk to many of the *Australians who worked with him*.

As he had not himself served under Slim in the 14th Army, he went to India to examine the famous battlefields of Imphal and *Kohima. That enabled him to* talk at their headquarters in Delhi and Calcutta with the top generals in the present Indian Army, most of whom had served as young officers under *Slim's leadership more* than 30 years ago.

The W. H. Smith award is given annually to the author of the book which, in the opinion *of the judges*, constitutes the most outstanding contribution to English literature during the year. There have been 18 previous winners.

Film archive in need of more resources

By Kenneth Gosling

Many more resources will continue to be required for the National Film Archive, the annual report of the British Film Institute says.

Recalling the launching in 1976-*77 of the first year of* the archive's 24-year nitrate duplication scheme (the transfer of dangerous and decaying stock on to safety film), the BFI says plans for the second year *include a big in*crease in the allocation of resources.

"It has to be recognized, however, that the successful continuation *of this scheme will require* a major annual increase in resources as plans for the third year onward include an annual duplication rate of five million feet of nitrate film."

In addition, and if the statutory deposit law is passed, the annual cost of acquiring preservation material of all selected film and television programmes would be about £1.5m.

In his report, Mr Keith Lucas, the director, says the institute last year again substantially increased its total income; but in spite of important achievements it was still necessary to recognize the continuing need for the BFI to fight for public recognition of the true importance of film, not only as an irreplaceable and unique record of society but as one of the most vital art forms in our culture.

Total spending last year, the report says, was £3,629,000; income totalled £3,643,000 including a grant of £2.5m from the Department of Education and Science. Excess of expenditure over income dropped by £13,654 to £19,713, after taking into account an accumulated deficit of £33,367.

Today's engagements

The Queen holds investiture, 11.
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother attends concert in aid of Musicians' Benevolent Fund, St James's Palace, 7.55.
The Duchess of Kent, as patron, *visits London office of Spastic* Society, Park Crescent, 12.45.
The Lord Mayor of London receives presentation of hat by Master and Wardens of Feltmakers' Company, Mansion House, 11.45; presides at Court of Aldermen, Guildhall, 12.45; attends Gresham Dinner of Mercers' Company, Mercers' Hall, 7.30.
Caravan and Camping Holiday Show and Mobile Homes Exhibition, Earls Court, 10-8.
Memorial service: Lord Hollenden, Southwark Cathedral, noon.
St Mary-Le-Bow, Cheapside: Lunch-hour dialogue, Mr Bernard Levin and the Rev Joseph McCulloch, 1.05.
Exhibition: Reflected Images, Kettle's Yard Gallery, Northampton Street, Cambridge, 12-6.
National Gallery, talk: "Metamorphoses: Art and Nature", by A. S. Byatt, 6.30.

University news

Vice-Chancellor to retire

Professor L. C. B. Gower, Vice-Chancellor of Southampton University since 1971, is to retire on September 30, 1979.

Conferment of titles:
Dr R. Baker and Dr G. R. Luckhurst, readers in chemistry, as professors.

Glasgow
Dr N. D. C. Grant, MA, MEd, reader in educational studies, Edinburgh University, has been appointed to the chair of education, in succession to Professor Stanley Nisbet.

Umist
Appointments
Lecturers: Dr R. A. Worth, polymer and fibre science; P. E. J-P. Delcloque, applied linguistics and modern languages; J. G. Frodin, structural engineering; J. R. Dalby, European studies and modern languages.

London
LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
Appointments
Senior lecturer: A. C. Harvey, BA (York), MSc (LSE), statistics (October, 1978).
Lecturers: Accounting: D. H. A. Leiwy, D. Paterson. Economics: M. Ahmed, BSc Econ, *MSc Econ (LSE)*, G. B. Assaf, BA Econ (CNAA), MA Econ (Essex), Dr F. A. Cowell, BA Econ, MA, PhD (Cantab), J. E. H. Davidson, BSocSc (Birmingham), MSc (LSE), J. Le Grand, BA (Sussex), PhD (Pennsylvania) (October, 1978), A. Mukherji, BA, MA (Calcutta), MA, PhD (Rochester), H. Polemarchakis, AB (Yale) (October, 1978), Dr A. Shaked, BSc, MSc, PhD (Hebrew University). Geography: S. S. Duncan, BA (Cantab). Government: H. Machin, BA (Newcastle), PhD (LSE), J. T. S. Madeley, BA (Manchester), A. Moulakis, Dr Phil (Bochum). International history: R. W. D. Boyce, BA (Waterloo), MA (London), PhD (LSE). Social science and administration: Carol Wildavsky, BA (Brooklyn College), MSW (Connecticut). Sociology: C. T. Husbands, BA (Manchester), MA (Chicago), PhD (Bristol). Statistics: Norma G. Reid, BSc, MSc (Sussex), S. Satchell, BA, MComm (New South Wales), MA (Sydney), M. Siraf, BS, MS (Carnegie-Mellon), PhD (Chicago).

Wales
Dr G. H. Elder, BA, BChir, MD (Cantab), reader, has been ap*pointed professor of medical bio*chemistry at the Welsh National School of Medicine.

Birmingham
The university is to establish a chair of orthopaedics at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, near Oswestry, Salop. A public appeal has raised £225,000, the sum required to endow the chair. Other associated costs will be borne by the National Health Service.

Nottingham
The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws will be conferred on December 17 on Professor W. J. H. Butterfield, vice-chancellor from 1971 to 1975, and on Dr G. I. Hobday, president of the university council.

Luncheons

HM Government
Lord Goronwy-Roberts, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a luncheon at Lancaster House yesterday in honour of M George Macovescu, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Romania, and Mme Macovescu. Among others present were:
The Romanian Ambassador and Mme Popa, M Iuliu Dobrotu, M Traian Chebileu, M Christian Constantinescu, M and Mme M. Croitoru; Lord Shackleton, Sir Leslie and *Lady Glass*, Mr R. L. Seconde, Mr R. Hibbert, Mr J. L. Jones, Mr Raymond Mawby, MP, Mr and Mrs J. Eccles, Mr H. Davy, Mr and Mrs H. James, Group Captain Desmond Devitt and Mrs N. Paterson.

British Council
Dr P. A. I. Tahourdin, Deputy Director-General, the British Council, and Mrs Tahourdin were hosts *at a luncheon held at Maudie's* restaurant yesterday in honour of Mrs Lea Porath, Director, Division of Arts and Culture, Ministry of Arts and Culture, Israel.

Dinners

Lord Mayor's Banquet
The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor and the Prime Minister were among the speakers at a banquet in Guildhall yesterday evening given by the Lord Mayor, Air Commodore and Alderman the Hon Sir Peter Vanneck, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and the Sheriffs and their ladies, for the outgoing Lord Mayor, Commander and Alderman Sir *Robin Gillett*, and Lady Gillett. Among those present were:
The Ambassador of Lebanon and Mme Dimechkié, the High Commissioner for Cyprus, the High Commissioner for Tonga and Mrs Faletau, the Ambassador *of the Ivory Coast and Mme Adako*, the High Commissioner for Tanzania, the High Commissioner for Grenada and Mrs Gibbs, the Ambassador of Colombia and Señor de Vázquez-Carrizosa, the Ambassador of Finland and Mme Tötterman, the High Commissioner for Australia and Mrs Freeth, the Ambassador of France and Mme Sauvagnargues, Major-General Earl and Countess Cathcart, Major-General Lord and Lady Michael Fitzalan Howard, the Bishop of London and Mrs Ellison, the Lord Chamberlain and Lady Maclean, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *Mrs Healey, the Lord Chief Justice and* Lady Widgery, the Master of the Rolls, the President of the Family Division, the Attorney General and the Hon Mrs Silkin, Marshal of the RAF Lord and Lady Elworthy, Lord Todd, OM, and Lady Todd, Lord Justice and Lady *Eveleigh*, Lord Justice and Lady Browne, the Chief of the Defence Staff and Lady Cameron, the Chief of the Air Staff and Lady Beetham, the Chairman of the GLC and Mrs Bains, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster, the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames and Mr Trevor Tapping, representatives of Parliament, the Civil Service, the Armed Forces, judges, banking, commercial and professional institutions, masters of livery companies, personal guests of the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs, Aldermen, common councilmen and officers of the Corporation of London and their ladies.

Old Etonian Dinner
The Marsden Club held a dinner at the Bath Club yesterday evening. The guest of honour and speaker was Mr F. J. R. Coleridge, Vice-Provost of Eton.

Furniture Makers' Company
The Furniture Makers' Company held their annual ladies' dinner at Clothworkers' Hall last night when the Master, Mr John Barclay Jacobs, presided, and the other *speakers were* Sir Ralph Perring and Mr D. G. A. Owen.

Oxford Society
The annual dinner of the Jersey branch of the Oxford Society was held yesterday evening at the Hotel L'Horizon, St Brelade's Bay, Jersey. The Rev C. P. Harrison presided and the guest speaker was Lord Briggs, Provost of Worcester College, Oxford.

Receptions

Anglo-Jewish Association
The Anglo-Jewish Association held a reception in the House of Commons last night in honour of Sir Zelman Cowen, Governor-General *designate of Australia, and Lady* Cowen. The guests were received by the president Dr Basil Bard and Mrs Bard, and the deputy president Mr Neville Sandelson, MP, and Mrs Sandelson. Among those present were:—
The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Mrs Lever, Baroness Birk and Mr Ellis Birk, Sir Israel Brodie (vice-president) and Lady Brodie, Mr Philip Goodhart, *MP*, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, MP, Judge and Mrs Clive Callman, Mr R. N. Carvalho (vice-president) and Mrs Carvalho, Mr Clemens Nathan (vice-president), Rabbi Dow Marmur (vice-president), Mr Charles Rubens (vice-president) and Mrs Rubens, Mr Richard Moss (hon treasurer), Mr and Mrs Jonathan Seres, Mr and Mrs Steven E. Q. Henriques and Mr David M. Jacobs (secretary).

Great Britain-China Centre
A reception was held at the Great Britain-China Centre yesterday in honour of Mr Tseng Tao, leader of a press delegation from the People's Republic of China. Sir Harold Thompson, chairman, welcomed the guests. Among those present were:
The Chinese Ambassador, Lord Gladwyn, Baroness Vickers, Mr William Deedes, Sir Denis Hamilton, Sir John Keswick, Sir Frederick and Lady Bennett, Sir John Llewellyn, Dr M. G. P. Stoker, Mr Hugh Collar, Mr W. W. Taylor, Mr J. Scott, Mr Leo Handley Derry, Mr Andrew Faulds, MP, and other members of Parliament and representatives of the press, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and other *government departments*.

Mrs S. Abuzeid
The Jordanian Ambassador and Mrs Salah Abuzeid gave a recep*tion at Claridge's hotel last night* on the occasion of the silver jubilee and birthday of King Husain. Among those present were:
Members of the Diplomatic Corps, members of both Houses of Parliament, representatives from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and other ministries, members of royal palace staff, representatives from the media, industry and commerce and other *friends of Jordan*.

Supper party

HM Government
Dr David Owen, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a ballet at Covent Garden yesterday and at a supper party at 1 Carlton Gardens afterwards in honour of M George Macovescu, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Romania, and Mme Macovescu. Among others present were:
The Romanian Ambassador and Mme Popa, M Iuliu Dobrotu; Lord Walston, Mr James Johnson, MP, and Mrs Johnson, Mr John Burgess, Mr R. Seconde, Mr and Mrs Kieran Prendergast and Group Captain Desmond Devitt.

OBITUARY

SIR WILLIAM CARR

Former chairman of News of the World Organisation

Sir William Carr, chairman of the News of the World Organization from 1960 to 1969 and of News of the World Ltd from 1952 to 1969, died yesterday at the age of 65. He remained Life President of the *companies (called News International Ltd)* and consultant to the board.

He was the youngest son of *the late Sir Emsley Carr who*, in conjunction with Lord Riddell, took the leading part in the creation of the Sunday newspaper which became a household name throughout the world. Long before the arrival of air transport they had tackled the problem of distribution of their paper in a big way and in its early days the *News of the World* relied *for much of its success* on its remarkable transport and distribution organization which ensured the appearance of the paper on the Sunday breakfast table of readers in practically every corner of the British Isles. It provided an excellent sporting and general news service and, in the days when full reports of divorce actions could be published, they were given with a mass of detail.

Towards the end of 1968 Carr had to fend off a £28m takeover bid for the News of the World group made by Mr Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Press. The result of the somewhat drawn-out battle was a dear victory for Carr—the fam*ily lost control* of their company. Only the intervention of Rupert Murdoch, the Australian newspaper proprietor, who at 37 could match Maxwell when it came to a reputation for drive and growth, won the day.

William Emsley Carr was born on May 30, 1912, and was educated at Clifton and Trinity College, Cambridge. He joined *the News of the World* organization in 1937 and became chairman of the company in 1952. During Carr's chairmanship the activities of the organization were considerably expanded. The business of Berrow's Newspapers Ltd, was acquired and Carr thus controlled the destinies of all the newspapers published in Worcester including *Berrow's Worcester Journal*, one of the oldest newspapers in the world. By 1962 when the *Bromsgrove Messenger* was acquired, the Berrows Organisation Ltd. group included two evening papers and 14 weeklies in Worcestershire and Herefordshire.

In 1959 the News of the World organization tried unsuccessfully to obtain the Newnes publishing group and in 1961 Carr was reported to be anxious to add *The Daily Herald* and *The People* to his properties, but nothing came of the project. Instead, he developed his interests in television. The News of the World and its subsidiary, Berrow's Newspapers, owned a substantial interest in T.W.W., the former commercial television company for South Wales and the West of England. At the end of January, 1962, it was announced that the News of the World organization had acquired a 38 per cent interest in the French company, Tele-Europe Société Anonyme, which produced newscast short films and documentaries under contract for the State Television services of France and other European countries.

In view of his increasing commitments Carr found it necessary to retire from the General Council of the Press to which he gave valuable service in its early days, particularly as a member of its General Purposes Committee. He was a director of Reuters from 1960 to 1967, and *vice-patron* of the Amateur Athletic Association. He was Chairman of Bees Ltd the seedsmen from *1970 to 1973*.

In 1938 he married Jean Mary Forsyth and there were a son and daughter of the marriage.

MAJOR-GENERAL R. G. S. HOBBS

Major-General R. G. S. Hobbs, CB, DSO, OBE, a former Commandant of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, died on November 7 at the age of 69. Educated at Wellington and the RMA Woolwich he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery in 1928. He served at home for the next four years playing a great deal of rugby both for the Army and for England, gaining four caps. He served for the next six years in India and from the end of 1938 until the outbreak of war, was an instructor at the RMA Woolwich.

He was with the British *Expeditionary Force in 1940* being sent to France with the 52nd Division after Dunkirk, and with the Royal Horse Artillery with the Eighth Army in the Western Desert in 1942-43. Here he commanded the 104th Regiment (Essex Yeomanry) RHA and won his DSO at Alamein. He was GSO 1 (Training) to the 21st Army Group in NW Europe from December, 1943, to the end of *war and was afterwards a staff officer at HQ Amphibious Warfare until 1947.*

He was Chief of Staff Combined Operations in 1948 and after attending the Imperial Defence College was Commander Royal Artillery of the 1st Division in the Middle East. In 1952 he commanded the 2nd *Infantry Brigade in the Canal* Zone and during 1953 was a member of a Ministry of Defence Working Party on Atomic Weapons. He was Commandant at Sandhurst from 1954 to 1956. Subsequently he was Director of Royal Artillery, War Office 1957 to 1959 and GOC 1st Division from 1959 to 1960 when he retired.

He was Colonel-Commandant of the Royal Regiment of Artil*lery from 1963 to 1968 and was* Hon Colonel of the Essex Yeomanry from 1961 to 1966. He was Lieutenant-Governor and Secretary of the Royal Military Hospital Chelsea from 1962 to 1967. He was President of the Rugby Football Union in 1961-62.

He married, in 1935, Mary Jameson, daughter of Major-General Hugo De Pree, CB, CMG, DSO. They had one *daughter*.

JUDGE R. H. FORREST

A correspondent writes:
Richard Haddow Forrest fell into a professional mould that was both formal *and* traditional. After a good practice as a junior in Liverpool, he later became the leader of the Northern Circuit. Meanwhile, while still in practice, he held varied *judicial offices in criminal*, civil and appellate jurisdictions, as recorder of Salford, as president of the Jersey and Guernsey Court of Appeal and as the last holder of the judgeship of the Liverpool Court of Passage.

In due course he was appointed a circuit judge in 1972 and sat in Sussex and Kent. As a leader at the Bar he was com*petent, but restrained* and, *in* one sense, unstretched—except when faced with an intellectual challenge and a formidable adversary. But as a judge he demonstrated qualities of a consistently high order. His conduct of a hearing was relaxed, firmly authoritative yet absolutely fair. When it came to sentence his deep religious convictions and lively sense of justice operated with a natural casuistry.

Those close to him saw a person greater than any office he held and this stature is reflected by the intellectual achievements of the family he shared with his exceptional wife Monica.

General Alexei Semyonovich Zhadov, who was Deputy Commander-in-Chief, subsequently First-Deputy Commander-in chief of the USSR's ground forces from 1955 to 1964, has died at the age of 77. Zhadov had commanded the Russian 66th Army (later 5th Guards *Army*) playing an important role in the battles of Kursk and Oryol.

Brigadier Gerald Shenstone, CBE, TD, DL, died on November 5. He served in both World Wars and had been a Deputy Lieutenant for Essex. He was ADC to the King from 1941 to 1951.

Ho Chia-Chan, Chief of Staff of the *Foochow military region* of China, died of a heart attack on October 2.

CANON SUBIR BISWAS

Canon Subir Kumar Biswas, Canon of Calcutta Cathedral and friend of the outcast and poor, died on November 13 in a Calcutta nursing home after a long illness. He was 43.

Always an outstanding priest intellectually, he first became known worldwide for his almost superhuman efforts for the refugees during the crisis when East Pakistan became Bangladesh and starving people came flooding into India and Calcutta. His work for their relief was ceaseless—at one time he worked a 48 hour stretch with*out sleep and almost without* food till he collapsed so exhausted as to be unable to speak. During the time of the emergency he made Calcutta Cathedral into a great store for blankets, food and medicine for the sick and starving. "Here is a cathedral doing its true work", *he said*.

He believed that his cathedral existed for the city, its people and its poor. From the compound where the great church stands were sent doctors with medicines for the bustees and christian workers went out every night to serve the pavement dwellers in "Operation Twilight". He taught them not just to give relief but to take those well-nigh skeletons in *their arms to assure them that* someone cared in Christ's name.

He had a passion not just for help but for justice. He formed the Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service and later the Calcutta Consortium, a combine of all the relief organizations, receiving encouragement and help from *Christian Aid in England*. He announced "We need all our faith in the face of a massive onslaught to deprive the city's poor of every sort of dignity and justice. It is a lonely and exhausting battle".

He endured a long illness always hoping to be able to return to his work for the oppressed. "God", he said, during that time, "has given me so many gifts, so much desire, *so little time to achieve* what I see needs to be done and interpreted".

He died very peacefully. He leaves an English-born widow and one daughter.

Archbishop Alfred Tooming, Primate of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church, has died, Tass news agency reports from Moscow. He was 71.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev R. S. Anderson, curate of St Peter's, Allerton, diocese of Brad*ford, to be Vicar of* St Michael and All Angels, Cottingley, same diocese.
The Rev R. N. Arbery, Rural Dean of Wigan and Vicar-designate of St Andrew's, Wigan, to be an honorary canon of Liverpool Cathedral.
The Rev M. A. Ballard, priest-in-charge *of St Peter's, Aylesbury*, diocese of Oxford, to be Vicar of Eastwood, diocese of Chelmsford.
The Rev B. R. Davis, prebendary of Lincoln Cathedral, to be residentiary canon and sub-dean.
The Rev I. R. Dowse, chaplain of Bangor Cathedral, to *the united benefice* of Hollym with Welwick and Holmpton, diocese of York.
The Rev G. B. Evans, chaplain of St John the Evangelist, Izmir, diocese of Gibraltar, to be also Rural Dean of the Aegean.
The Rev A. St J. Lemon, vicar of St Patrick's, Salter Street, diocese of Birmingham, to be Rector of Sheldon, same diocese.

Jurisdiction of North and Central Europe
The Rev D. W. Vail, formerly chaplain of Kenya High School, Nairobi, to be assistant chaplain of St Mark's, Versailles.
The Rev F. H. D. Davey, formerly chaplain, Missions to Seamen, Pusan, to be chaplain, Missions to Seamen, De Beer.
The Rev B. Morgan, formerly chaplain, *Missions to Seamen*, Mombasa, to be chaplain, Missions to Seamen, Pernis.

Science report

Chemistry: New pathway to life

American chemists have suggested a new pathway to the forerunners of organic molecules that shows how one of the main obstacles to the origin of life *might have been* overcome, and provides an explanation for organic molecules found on meteorites.

It is believed that the origin of life must have depended on the assembly on Earth of two sorts of molecule: nucleic acids, which carry the genetic code, and pro*teins, which perform all the com*plex metabolic functions of living cells. It is with the prebiotic synthesis of proteins that Dr Clifford Matthews and his colleagues at Illinois University, and Dr Robert Minard, at Pennsylvania State University, have been concerned.

It is known that the chemical building blocks for protein, the amino acids, can be created by discharging an electric spark through a mixture of gases simulating the atmosphere of the prebiotic Earth. However, the energy required to *link the amino* acids into a protein chain is substantial, and biochemists have found it hard to think of ways in which the free amino acids could have "condensed" into proteins in the primitive oceans.

That problem is circumvented by the discovery of Dr Matthews and his colleagues, who have shown that protein chains can emerge ready-made from hydrogen cyanide and water, both of which are assumed to have been *present in the Earth's prebiotic* atmosphere. The chemical pathway they propose requires relatively little energy and involves five steps leading to polyaminomalononitrile, the "true ancestor of all proteins", at the third step and heteropolypeptides (proteins) at the final one.

The researchers have evidence that the same low-energy reaction *is in fact* reponsible for the production of free amino acids in the earlier experiments with electrical discharges in gas. A linked molecule is produced and very rapidly broken down.

The same reaction is also a plausible explanation for the occurrence of amino acids on meteorites, according to Dr Matthews and his colleagues. All that is required is hydrogen cyanide, water and light.

By Nature-Times News Service.
Source: Science, November 11 (198, 622; 1977).
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Dane named for refugee post

Copenhagen, Nov 14.—The Nordic countries—Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden—have proposed Mr Paul Hartling, a former Danish Prime Minister, as their candidate for the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

It was understood here that his selection was the result of a direct request to the Nordic countries by Dr Waldheim.

Latest wills

Art dealer's bequest to the Queen

Sir Rex de Charembac Nan Kivell, of Chelsea, art dealer and director of the Redfern Gallery, left £653,747 net. Apart from personal and other bequests he left to the Queen a collection of watercolours of some 120 natural history subjects from the collection of Cardinal Alessandro Albani which belonged to George III in 1763.

He left to the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, a manuscript battle *formation presumed* to be Trafalgar but not verified, and all his books, paintings, drawings, prints and other items pertaining to Australasian and South Pacific affairs to the National *Library* of Australia.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid; tax not disclosed):
Arnold, Dr Jacqueline, of Leeds £144,248
Barrett, Mr Herbert, of Streetly, West Midlands, company director £108,657

THE ARTS

What is a classic?

What is a classic? This is a question which has long occupied writers and critics. *Classics of Modern Design*, at the Camden Arts Centre until December 18, borrows this term and immediately sets up unresolvable problems for itself. Bernard Gay, who organized the show, is clearly aware of this.

His definition is a good one: "In reference to the items shown in this exhibition, Classic implies the embodiment of qualities of form, function and excellence in use that are outstanding and recognized to a degree that many of the exhibits have continued in use for generation after generation despite the production of newer versions and despite changes in fashion and taste."

If the exhibition had kept to this brief it would have been much more coherent and had a greater impact. But the principle has been modified in the selection and items have been included which do not strictly fit the definition. But as soon as the criteria are relaxed in this way what is included and what excluded appears arbitrary. Charles Rennie Mackintosh is there although his work is classic in a different sense to Gay's definition; but if Mackintosh, why not the great Austrian designer Josef Hoffmann, whose furniture, silverware and other designs are being shown at Fischer Fine Art from Friday?

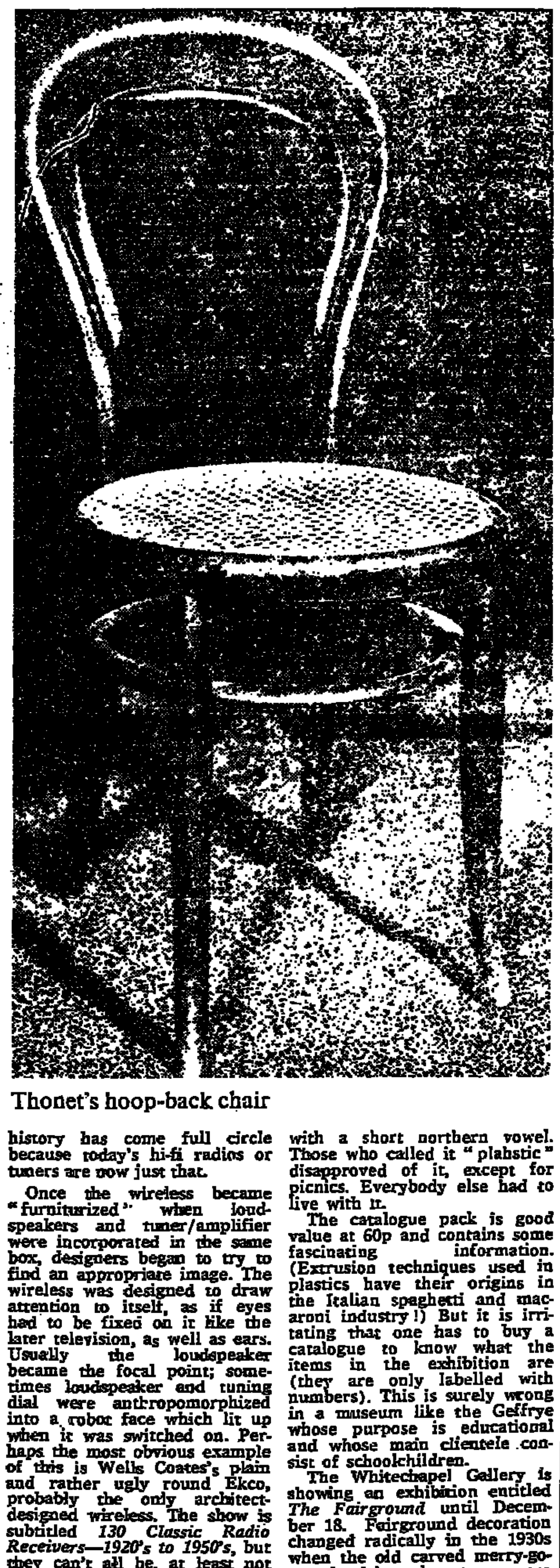
One of the problems has been the great difficulty in getting hold of items, particularly of European design of the early years of this century, which is disgracefully unrepresented in British collections of design, such as they are. Thus many works are presented photographically in the exhibition, and this is reasonably satisfactory. But there would have been less difficulty if Gay had kept to his original principle, for by this definition the more "classic" such objects are the more there are around and the easier to get hold of, like the famous Thonet No 14 bentwood chair familiar from church halls and junk shops. Designed in 1859, 50 million had been sold before the First World War and it is still in production. In this category too and also shown in the exhibition is the Yale lock, designed in the nineteenth century and still familiar today.

But there is much more of this kind which could have been included, like the gas stoves designed in America in the 1930s by Norman Bel Geddes which set the pattern for gas stoves to this day. These are really much more "classics" than the Charles Eames chairs which are at Camden. An original Bel Geddes stove might have been *difficult to get hold of, but* this could have been represented photographically and a British derivative exhibited.

House room should not have been given to 25 exhibits designed in Britain between 1952 and 1977 and chosen in consultation with the Design Council and the Society of Industrial Artists and Designers or the student work hopefully shown as possible future "classics". Few of these are classics or are likely to be, although the Issigonis Mini *is*, along with the Volkswagen Beetle and the Citroën 2CV which are shown together in photographs only. (Surely it would have been possible to borrow current versions from garages?)

There are good photographs of London Transport design (bus shelters, tube stations, etc) from the Frank Pick period between the wars, rightly described by Noel Carrington as "the most effective demonstration of design in action". Precious little postwar British design qualifies for the *classic*. One reason for this may well be the lack of the stimulus of a proper museum of modern design or a design section to the Tate. (The V & A's attempts to collect modern design are sporadic and belated and they are not on show, except in occasional exhibitions.) The Tate just now has *two* Minis displayed, but only as prizes for the Stubbs Appeal Raffle!

At the V & A now is *The Wireless Show*, British radios from the beginning of broadcasting in 1922 until the arrival of the transistor in 1956. The first radios were technical boxes with separate loudspeakers or headphones, and



Thonet's hoop-back chair

history has come full circle because today's hi-fi radios or tuners are now just that.

Once the wireless became "furniturized" when loudspeakers and tuner/amplifier were incorporated in the same box, designers began to try to find an appropriate image. The wireless was designed to draw attention to itself, as if eyes had to be fixed on it like the later television, as well as ears. Usually the loudspeaker became the focal point; sometimes loudspeaker and tuning dial were anthropomorphized into a robot face which lit up when it was *switched* on. Perhaps the most obvious example of this is Wells Coates's plain and rather ugly round Ekco, probably the only architect-designed wireless. The show is subtitled *130 Classic Radio Receivers—1920's to 1950's*, but they can't all be, at least not in the sense of the Camden exhibition.

Thirties radio sets came in two basic varieties, wood (posh) and bakelite (popular). During the war bakelite was needed for military purposes and the two utility models were both made of wood. The set I grew up with as a child during the war was huge, brown and bakelite and dated from the Thirties. Bakelite was associated in my childhood mind with the Bakerloo line on the tube map (same disgusting colour). In fact, it was named after its inventor, Dr Leo Baekeland.

Bakelite was like Henry Ford's cars: you could have it in any colour as long as it was brown. Light-coloured plastics during the Thirties were of a different material known as "urea" (disgusting name). Plastics of all kinds, from natural plastics (horn, rubber, gutta percha, etc) through celluloid, bakelite and urea to modern pvcs and acrylics can be seen in an informative exhibition at the Geffrye Museum called *Plastics Antiques*. Plastics were looked down upon by high-class designers who hoped their work would be classics, but all that is changed now—you used to be able to tell people's class from the way people said plastic. The upper classes called it "plahstic" like sticking plaster, and everybody else called it "plastic" with a short northern vowel. Those who called it "plahstic" disapproved of it, except for picnics. Everybody else had to live with it.

The catalogue pack is good value at 60p and contains some fascinating information. (Extrusion techniques used in plastics have their origins in the Italian spaghetti and macaroni industry!) But it is irritating that one has to buy a catalogue to know what the items in the exhibition are (they are only labelled with numbers). This is surely wrong in a museum like the Geffrye whose purpose is educational and whose main clientele consist of schoolchildren.

The Whitechapel Gallery is showing an exhibition entitled *The Fairground* until December 18. Fairground decoration changed radically in the 1930s when the old carved merry-go-rounds driven by steam were replaced by the new mechanical rides. The old two-dimensional graphic styles of decoration which had been used for signs and the sides of roundabouts were elaborated and brightened into baroque painted forms which enveloped the metal sides of the new machines. It is an interesting example of an old decorative style being very quickly adapted to technological change. Both the old and the new can be seen at Whitechapel. Downstairs examples brought in straight off the fairground at the end of the season are on show and upstairs beautifully carved animals and figures from the old carousels (often made by men who had previously worked on ships' figureheads) from Lady Bangor's Fairground Collection at Wookey Hall, Somerset.

Unfortunately a complete working roundabout failed to materialize at the last minute, and although a juke box, slide show and working pinball machine gives something of the atmosphere of a real fairground, the earthy and oily smells are absent. (A pity the café couldn't have sold candy floss and hot dogs.) And one misses the throb of the mobile generators and the great Foden tractors. But it's an enjoyable show which deserves to be popular.

Paul Overy

Romeo and Juliet
Hippodrome, Birmingham

John Percival

Juliet in Rudolf Nureyev's production for London Festival Ballet is not a conventional ballerina role. Rosaline has the purer classical dancing to do, and very prettily Andria Hall carried that off at Birmingham on Saturday, one of many newcomers to the leading parts for the ballet's first provincial tour. But the performance was dominated by another debut, Vivien Loeber's deeply impassioned and moving account of Juliet.

She has neither the looks nor the style we associate with a ballerina. Her tiptilted nose and rather solid build go well with a technique that is forceful, not delicate. But she has a gift for putting a dramatic edge on her dancing, although her roles hitherto have allowed little scope for that except when Antony Tudor picked her for a small part in *Echoing of Trumpets*. As Juliet that gift has the chance at last to blaze gloriously.

She has the advantage of looking right, young but nubile. There is something convincingly adolescent, too, about the hysterical urgency of her acting, the way every emotion is heightened by her eagerness. Yet she can be tellingly passive also, with thrilling effect in the duet when Romeo wrenches her from the tomb.

Nicholas Johnson is her Romeo. He plays the part as a sensitive, fine-grained romantic boy with just enough of a more mettlesome quality showing through to explain his involvement with so impetuous a girl. His slighter build brings a change in the quality of the sinewy dances Nureyev created for himself, but they mostly work well in this lighter transcription.

The previous night another new couple had danced the roles. Elisabetta Terabust, although not so rewardingly unconventional in manner as Loeber, does bring to Juliet an attractive gaucherie. Her touching fragility especially illuminates the moment when she stands as if imprisoned by her unwelcome wedding dress, a sacrifice to Paris. Patrice Bart seemed more impeded than Johnson by the limited size of the Birmingham stage but brought a welcome ardour to his dancing and acting.

Johnson and Bart both played Mercutio when the production was new last spring. Jonas Kage and Kenneth McCombie, who then appeared as Benvolio, are also due to dance Romeo later in the tour. Their promotion and the departure or injury of other dancers has necessitated the wholesale recasting of other roles.

Frederic Werner gives Paris an aptly supercilious air, the manner of a man who poses all the time to acknowledge the admiration he is sure must come his way by right. This interpretation gives incisiveness to what was formerly an undefined character, but at the expense of Werner's former role, Tybalt. David Long glowers dutifully in that part but cannot equal the malice Werner gave it; he is at his best in suggesting family affection for Juliet.

Kenn Wells plays up the comedy of Mercutio effectively but I thought him less convincing in the serious moments, and the solos really need more virtuosity than he commands. Michael Beare is an amiable Benvolio, but the sense of equality in friendship that was achieved by the original Romeo, Mercutio and Benvolio has evaporated.

Even with its high-powered first cast the ballet would not look quite so good on tour as it did at the Coliseum. A smaller performing area reins in the soloists, requires some compromises in the ensembles (the flag dance in particular) and robs Ezio Frigerio's handsome settings of their illusory distances. But it would be wrong to emphasize the limitations too much. Even with these impediments, the logic and power of Nureyev's staging carry the day. This *Romeo and Juliet* remains cogent and absorbing.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

Horrible Haydn

Philharmonia/Frühbeck
Festival Hall

William Mann

The warning, given in the programme book, that Sunday's performance of Haydn's *Creation* (or rather *Die Schöpfung* since it was sung in German) is imminently to be recorded for the gramophone was sufficiently alarming, once the concert had got under way, to warrant hopes of a legal veto, or at least a preventative act of God.

The conductor, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, is well known here, and has been admired for his readings in quite a broad repertory. But his notions of how Haydn's *Creation* should go are little short of disastrous on tempo, note-values, rhythm, texture, balance, and even basic grammatical decoration. Is it right that such commendable singers as Helen Donath, Robert Tear, and José van Dam should be made to sing the music of archangels, even that of pristine mankind, Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, as if they were grubby footpads or ragamuffins?

Haydn's *Creation* is one of the treasures of the choral repertory. Even if one did not know that Verdi and Wagner and Vaughan Williams, and Beethoven also, held unorthodox beliefs when they composed their sacred masterpieces, one would conclude rightly that *The Creation* and its companion piece *The Seasons*, to say nothing of the Masses by Haydn which are only just beginning to receive equal recognition, were the work of a devout as well as original musical genius. Its music is miraculously sustained at a level of sublimity, that of a humble human being contemplating the curious and comical works of God as well as his omnipotent majesty, a feat of imagination that no other composer, I fancy, has equalled.

Mr Frühbeck certainly did not live up to the feat. Devotees of eighteenth-century music usually have to deplore carelessness, in performance, about appoggiaturas, gracing in repeats, and cadenzas at pause-marks. Here the musical sins, sinful indeed, ironed out texture so that significant invention (sometimes even the melody) was swamped, or so that fresh fantasy became as smarmy and nauseous as a bubble-bath lotion (e.g. the duets of Adam and Eve).

Of course the animal mimicry in "Rolling in foaming billows" was brought out, estimably by the Philharmonia orchestral soloists (sometimes elsewhere dubious of intonation). There was not much harpsichord to be heard outside dry recitatives (it was missed in the middle section of "Von deiner Gut", the first Eden duet, and elsewhere). Fast tempi were adopted without consideration of whether the actual notes and their musical meaning could be conveyed: they were not.

There was, to be sure, some exquisite orchestral playing, from strings and wind. But it was a horrible, unmusical, anti-Haydn performance which drew the worst from soloists, choir and especially conductor.

Vienna Wind Quintet
Wigmore Hall

Joan Chissell

The more they played, the more persuasive the Vienna Wind Quintet grew at Wigmore Hall on Sunday. According to the handbill the five players (Gottfried Hechtl, Manfred Kautzky, Siegfried Schenner, Robert Freund and Karl Dvorak) are all experienced orchestral musicians who after some 16 years together in Europe are on their first major tour of Britain.

Of the six works, only Franz Danzi's graceful A major quintet was not written in the twentieth century. Here the group suggested that even if the way had not been long, the wind was certainly cold. Exposed melody-makers like flute and oboe emerged rather pinched in tone, while in the Polacca finale their lively tempo seemed to strain ensemble besides taxing individual agility all round.

Jumping to a trio for oboe, clarinet and bassoon by Milhaud was not extreme: the eight short movements (tambourin, musette, coucou and the like) owe more to the past than the present. Here the tartness of the tone suited the wryness of the score, while already the players sounded as if they were beginning to enjoy themselves.

By the third work, they had completely found their form. This was a three-movement Sonata for wind quintet newly commissioned (with funds from the Arts Council) from Stephen Dodgson, a composer who thrives on special orders—indeed for whose particular kind of mind they are almost a necessity. Once again he has met the challenge with the deftest craftsmanship besides imaginative awareness of what might be termed the sonority potential. Though the finale is lighter, the first two movements often open out the quintet like a fan, with full chordal texture built from a deep base. Though wholly abstract, the music has plenty to say. The work's teasing rhythms are intriguing, too.

After the interval, Paul Walter Fürst's Concertante Musik elicited some characterful phrasing and nice range of colour. But a suite of seventeenth-century Hungarian dances by Ferenc Farkas and still more, Ibert's *Trois pièces brèves* showed the group at their most fluent and entertaining.

Kirshbaum/Isador
St John's/Radio 3

Joan Chissell

Schubert and the second Viennese School were forgotten in yesterday's lunchtime concert broadcast from St John's. Instead, Ralph Kirshbaum and Michael Isador ended their programme of music for cello and piano with Beethoven's third sonata in A as reminder, perhaps, that we are still in 1977, the 150th anniversary year of his, not Schubert's, death.

In the first movement, none the less, their leisurely tempo and relaxed way with every tune as it came along gave the music an uncommonly Schubertian feel. But from their bite and sustained drive there was certainly no mistaking who wrote the Scherzo. The finale was still more highly charged. They risked very fast tempo for this movement, each responding to any little spur-of-the-moment surges from the other like a true duo.

Partnership was close, too, in Bach's D major sonata at the start of the programme. Mr Isador drew a clean, almost plucked kind of sonority from his piano which only from a phrase or two in the finale seemed marginally too strong. Mr Kirshbaum also caught the music's grave purity in a clear-cut line. As in Beethoven's all-too-brief slow movement, so in the Bach he made his instrument sing expressively without an excess of vibrato.

For novelty (if such a word can be applied to music written nearly 30 years ago) there was Henze's Serenade for solo cello, its nine whimsical little movements all salvaged from incidental music for an abandoned production of *Much Ado about Nothing*. Again there was much to enjoy in Mr Kirshbaum's cantabile and control of plucks and thrums. But here, a little more temperament (in the Rostropovich manner) might not have come amiss. It is an insubstantial piece, needing an interpreter's help.

Social Focus

A missed opportunity that may have cost the clergy the pay rise they need

A recent correspondence in *The Times* has emphasized the inadequacy of clergy stipends in these inflationary days. Publication of the accounts of the Church Commissioners for the year ended March 31, 1977, shows that it would have been possible for the commissioners to have remedied the situation at a stroke if they had chosen to do so.

The accounts show that at that date they had Stock Exchange investments valued at £265,031,000 and these were notionally earning 6.84 per cent per annum at that date. The actual income from Stock Exchange investments during the year was £17,153,000. If that £265,031,000 had been reinvested during the year in long-dated government securities it could now be earning 15 per cent or £39,754,500, an increase of £22,601,500, *which would* have been assured until well into the twenty-first century; and on redemption the commissioners, by a right choice of stocks, would make a big capital gain in monetary terms.

There are 9,295 incumbents and clergy of incumbent status in the Church of England (latest figures). Let us throw in the superior clergy and for good measure call the figure 10,000. By the policy suggested the commissioners could have afforded to pay each of them an extra £2,000 a year, kept a useful balance in hand each year and ended up in 2015 with far more money than they had at the beginning.

These are arithmetical facts, easily verified. Why have the commissioners not followed the policy?

They have recognized the force of the argument in two ways. They point out that "43.5 per cent of their Stock Exchange portfolio income is derived from fixed interest stocks"—that is, *43.5 per cent of the income comes from* only 20.1 per cent of the assets—but they regard this as an argument for staying still instead of doing more. Second, "the Commissioners continued during the year their policy of taking advantage of the high interest rates obtainable from fixed interest stock exchange securities and at the same time preserving some degree of future income growth by capitalizing part of *the improved income*".

In fact they invested a further £3,052,000, partly from the sale of equities, bringing the investment under this heading to £10,089,000. The income for the year from these securities was £847,000, of which £429,000 was capitalized. This recognizes the force of the policy here advocated but the commissioners have merely dipped their toes into the water instead of plunging in boldly.

Why are they so hesitant? There are two reasons:

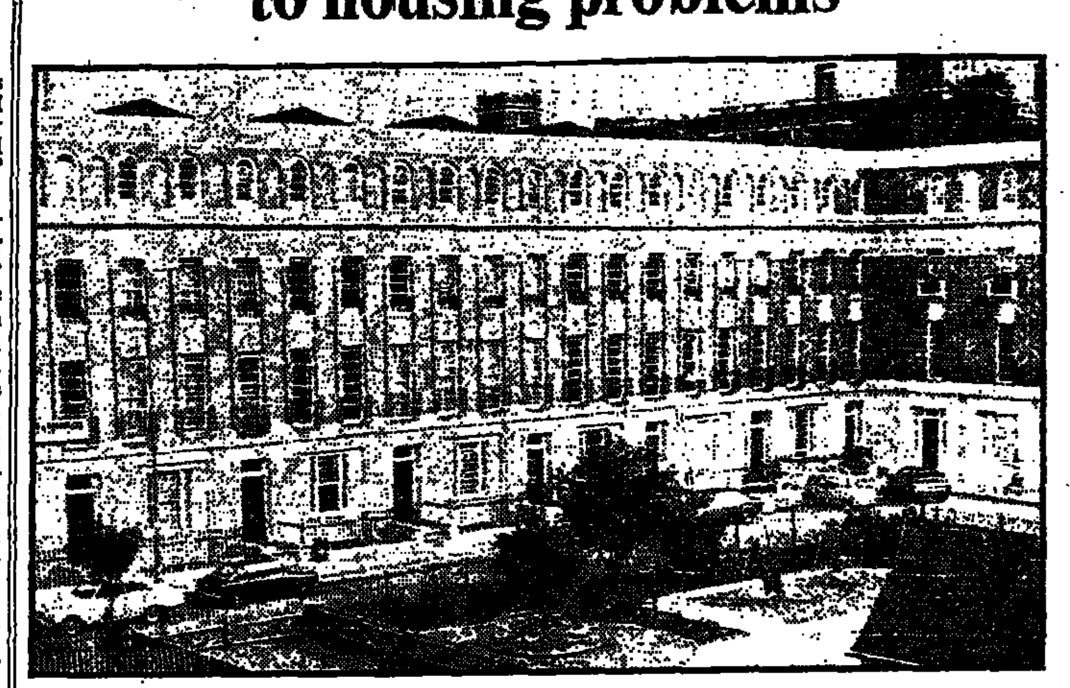
First, while expressing the hope that inflation will be brought under control, they have based their policy on the assumption that it will continue at a high rate. *It is already evident that* they have judged wrongly, but even if inflation were to continue at 16.7 per cent the right policy would be to give the clergy only an extra £1,000 a year and to reinvest half the increased income under the policy here advocated, *which even now would give the com*missioners an increased Stock Exchange income of £1,200,000 each year, precisely what they obtained in the year just ended.

Secondly, they believe that the income from their investment in equities, though now modest—the rate on March 31 was only 5.3 per cent—will grow. No doubt it will, but we must expect *dividend limitation to continue*, whatever government is in power, as a bargaining counter with the trade unions, and though ways will be found round it in particular cases the benefits are not likely to be so great as investment in gilts and reinvestment of half the proceeds would have been. The commissioners prefer assets backed by physical resources to assets backed by the credit of the British government, but physical assets are of little value if they become exhausted or cease to be in demand, and when we consider what has happened to such famous names as Rolls-Royce, British Leyland and Slater Walker we may wonder whether "the gnomes of Millbank" will always be able to "play the market" correctly.

The commissioners took an adventurous step in 1950 in deciding to enter the equity market in a big way. For many years the policy paid. But those were the days when the yield on equities was consistently higher than on gilts, and there was also real growth. But times have changed, and we have long had a big "reverse yield gap". The insurance companies and other big investors have taken advantage of this changed situation by investing in government securities on a large scale, and apart from the greater income they have seen a substantial rise in the value of their holdings. *The commis*sioners have failed to move with the times, and the opportunity they have lost may never recur. Now they could earn only 10¼ per cent, not 15. "Jobbing backwards" is an unrewarding exercise, so let it be said that the commissioners were warned long ago that, while the bus was still waiting, it would not wait for ever. They have now missed it, and it is the clergy who suffer.

Ivor Bulmer-Thomas

Building new homes is not always the best answer to housing problems



Early Victorian Houses in Milner Square, London, converted into flats for about 500 people by Islington Council at a total cost (including purchase) of some £2,700,000.

In a recent article in *The Times*, Lord Eccles placed the improvement in the housing of those who are poorly housed as *the nation's first priority*—without of decent place to live in, he asked, how can you think society is fair? The statistics *in the Housing Policy Green* Paper justify the question, but obscure the solution. While the consultative document may be *commended for its overall com*monsense, it avoids any commitment as to the balance between investment in new construction and investment in the improvement and perpetuation of the existing housing stock. Yet there are no more vital questions to pose than how many new houses do we need to build each year and how much do we need to spend on our existing houses in order to ensure that by 1986 there are no longer families living in houses that are unfit for human habitation.

In this question lies the first statistical and semantic trap, for *any official analysis designates* the ultimate state of the housing stock in terms of fitness or unfitness—a statutory description not much changed in its conception since the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1919. Thus the Green Paper is able to show that we have eliminated 348,000 unfit houses since 1971 in England and Wales—but 900,000 still remain; there has been a startling 43 per cent increase in the numbers of houses requiring repairs costing more than £1,000 (£2,350 at 1976 prices), and there are more than 1,500,000 so-called "fit" houses in England alone in a state of *serious disrepair requiring more* than £1,000 spent on each of them at today's prices. To these numbers must be added a further million houses that are fit but lacking one or more basic amenity. To deal solely with outstanding repairs—let alone the provision of missing amenities and the modernizing of the overall property is indicated at close to £9,000m—equivalent to more than 10 times the total capital expenditure spent on all grant aided improved—in 1975 —which at the most includes 50 per cent repair work.

As the Green Paper says, at least one in 10 of every house*hold in England and Wales are* living in circumstances which are just not acceptable. In the view of the National Home Improvement *Council* there are still more than 3,000,000 houses below what should be defined as the minimum habitability standard (the term unfit should be pensioned off).

The conclusion must be reached that we have greatly misjudged the amount of money that we have to invest and make available in order to ensure that our existing stock of houses does not fall into premature obsolescence—and the Green Paper perpetuates this misjudgment.

During the past 10 years we have relied more on demolition than improvement for the elimination of substandard housing and in so doing we have destroyed precisely the kind of housing in terms of scale and identity that are most likely to be required in the future. By 1986 the policy review estimates that slum clearance will have been com*pleted—any demolition beyond* that date will be of habitable stock—or stock we have so neglected in the intervening 10 years that it *has become unfit* —thus the housing stock will be larger and older—with for example 7,000,000 houses more than 65 years old in 1966 (compared with 4,700,000 in 1975) or some 2,500,000 over 105 years old (1,630,000).

How much should we be spending on the upkeep of that stock and how many new houses can we afford to add at the same time? The review for England and Wales avoids an opinion—the Scots are less reticent. The Scottish Green Paper suggests a radical reduction in the rate of new housing —mainly in the public sector— and observes that "the extent of the estimated departure from the level of building which has been customary in the past may seem surprising. . .".

There is a remarkable wealth of valuable data and analysis in the Technical Volumes for England and Wales, but the complex projections and tables on the other *hand strain both* credulity and arithmetic perspicacity. The central Environment Department projection indicates a level of new housing (1976-1986) above the 1971-1975 average—notwithstanding zero *population growth, a rising* vacancy rate and slower household formation (135,000 each year compared with 205,500 between *1966-1970 and 159,000* between 1971-1976). For every 1,000 new households formed between 1966 and 1970 we built in Great Britain 1,795 houses and 1,649 between 1971 and 1975, thus the consequences of continuing at the present rate of new building over the next decade would be to create 1,780 new houses for every 1,000 new households. In the past there was a deficit of stock to households, and the surplus built went to replace *houses demolished and to* accumulate a margin of houses to households and vacant stock. We cannot blindly continue the accumulation of surplus new stock while turning our backs on the deficit of 3,000,000 substandard occupied stock that require investment for modernization and repair.

Improvement investment represents an alternative investment option to demolition and rebuilding: both activities involve raising capital, obtaining loans and providing subsidies but the projection of total investment and subsidy will be critically dependent on the mix—new to improved—and also the balance between public and private.

On average during the past three years about 77 per cent of the housing investment in dwellings was for new building and 23 per cent for improvement—the latter representing *about 4 per cent of the total* domestic fixed capital formation.

In their estimate of the hous*ing stock situation, the NHIC* have shown that many families in 1986 will still be occupying houses not suitable for human habitation in *1986* and very probably in 1996 unless we double the present rate of improvement investment and thereby add an extra 1,250,000 fit houses to the stock, by 1986.

The proportion of the gross domestic fixed capital formation applied to dwellings has never varied by much more *than 1 per cent over the past* 15 years (three year averages at 1970 prices). If total housing investment cannot *be increased then the con*sequences of doubling the present level of investment (at 1970 prices) to say 8 per cent of GDFCF would mean a reduction of £400m per annum from new housing investment. This in turn would amount to a reduction of present new building to about 245,000 per annum for the United Kingdom or about 210,000 for England and Wales.

The public sector improvement share was numerically very much the greater (40 per cent of grant aid went to the public sector—which contains only 20 per cent of the sub*standard stock*).

Clearly a large share of the reduction would fall on public sector new building but to en*sure that the released funds* find their way into improvement instead of being transferred elsewhere will above all *else demand that loans for im*provement are as freely available as loans for new housing —irrespective of the state of the unimproved property—and that they carry the same tax benefits.

Those who refuse to accept any of this must select from the three choices challengingly presented in the Scottish Review—a very high vacancy rate, widespread demolition of houses of a good standard, or substantial under-occupation. The same message can be extracted from the Technical Volumes for England and Wales but it is rather hard work.

P. A. Denison

The author is Hon Director of Research Studies, National Home Improvement Council, also Director of the Building and Insulation Division of Cape Industries.

Power without responsibility: a bleak prospect for education

Education in Britain is part of the totality of local government. It is regrettable that the Taylor Committee in its report has sought to obscure this fact. Its proposals for the composition of governing bodies take us one step farther from an elected democracy, one step nearer to a corporate state. Councillors undoubtedly have their defects, but they do have an overview of the whole of local services and they are accountable to the electorate. To whom will these *new governors be accountable?*

Teachers clearly can be answerable to the staff, preferably as representatives and not as delegates. Experience with parent-governors has varied: in some cases the elections have been a great *success*, in others a low poll is combined with a situation where the parent-governor does not feel accountable to any clearly defined body. They can easily become prey to take-over bids by unrepresentative pressure groups which abound in education as elsewhere.

The proposed recruitment of representatives from *industry*, commerce and "the community" is even more anomalous: on what basis will these governors be selected?, to whom will they be answerable? In effect they will tend to be the *acquaintances—or supporters*— of members of the other three groups. To divorce policy from financial control is highly undesirable. Decisions on the curriculum as well as aspects of *internal* organization and provision often need the expenditure of large sums of money if they are to be satisfactorily implemented. The curriculum is the preserve of the governors but financial control rests with the local education authority. In this way governors could, for example, have voted for the introduction of Nuffield Science without the ability to finance the necessary expenditure.

The proposal to prevent people from serving on more than one governing body is deplorable. The ability of governors to compare the achievements and shortcomings of different schools will be seriously impaired. Members who sit on several governing bodies can see the needs *of the school in* the overall context of educational provision in the authority. It is part of the responsibility of a governor to represent the needs of the school to the authority: it is equally his task to help the school to understand its position as part of the whole local education service. As a headmaster, I have often wel*comed* the advice of governors who have been able to relate my requests to the needs of the authority as a whole and to the requirements of other schools in the area.

The Taylor proposals would create boards of governors with some power but little responsibility. In giving to parents, teachers and outside interests the illusion of control when the real financial responsibility rests with the council, they are deliberately establishing bodies doomed to frustration. The creation of unrealistic expectations has been one of the serious problems of British public life since the war.

Finally there is a crucial political issue. Under our system of local government candidates inevitably seek election on a platform of *proposed* measures. This is essential to a lively local democracy. Educational "promises" form part of the programme. The elected majority needs the institutional power to implement its promises. Although all my 20 years in local government have been spent in minority, I would never seek to deny a majority party the right to introduce democratically the policy on which it was elected. Taylor would make this harder to achieve.

Members of the committee are entitled to the view that the present constitutional arrangements for local government and the place of education within it are in need of radical reform. *In which case let them say so.* But to attempt in this way to reorganize the powers and composition of governing bodies within our present framework does no service to education, local government or democracy.

Geoffrey Samuel

The author is a former head of a comprehensive school, and chairman of the board of governors of another one.

THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

Bank of England moves to widen its operations lead to a rift with clearers

By Ronald Pullen
Banking Correspondent

In an important new departure the Bank of England has made tentative approaches to public bodies like local authorities and nationalized industries to persuade them to switch their main accounts away from the London clearing banks to the Bank.

This has led to a rift between the Bank and the clearers over the latter's request that the Bank bear its full share of the cost of using the central clearing house system for cheques if it moves further into the commercial banking sphere.

Should the switch happen it will result in the Bank making much heavier use of the clearing facilities. The Bank is already a member of the clearing house on account of the commercial banking business it carries out.

This is limited to a handful of bodies like the Inland Revenue and a few local authorities such as the Greater London Council, employee accounts and a few other prestige accounts, and the number of cheques passing through the clearing system on the Bank's behalf is insignificant.

If the Bank does step up its use of the clearing system, however, the "reciprocity agreement" which is central to the equitable operation of the clearing house will break down since there is no two-way flow of cheques between the clearers and the Bank.

As it is now structured the pattern of debits and credits among the participants tends to balance out, involving only small adjustments at the end of every working day.

What the clearing banks are now seeking is an undertaking from the Bank of England that if it does become more closely involved in money transmission services it should be fully charged for using the clearers' facilities.

At the moment, the clearers, through the Committee of London Clearing Banks, are at the stage of making their position clear. It is understood that the Bank's line is that its responsibilities to the clearing system are discharged on presentation of cheques at the clearing house.

Meanwhile, the Bank justifies its involvement in commercial banking on the ground that it needs to keep its finger on the pulse of the banking system if it is to carry out its broader functions effectively.

A spokesman for the Bank claimed yesterday that "we are not changing our stance". But with increasing pressure on public bodies to effect their business as economically as possible, he admitted that it was quite possible that the Bank "would submit tenders" if asked by a public body. It is thought that a number of such tenders have already been sent out.

While these developments are only obliquely linked with the current Price Commission investigation into bank charges, there is a widespread belief that an increase in charges to the nationalized industries by the clearers was one of the main reasons for the present investigation.

What is also starting to concern some clearing banks is that this latest move could presage a greater involvement by the Bank in the commercial banking field where its access to confidential information, not only on industry but also individual banks could create some conflicts of interests. They feel that the Bank should restrict its operations to purely central bank functions.

At the same time there is some disquiet that the Bank no longer represents the City's view in Whitehall quite as effectively as it did, although in its evidence to the Wilson Committee the Bank went to some lengths to stress its "neutral role".

The clearers have been particularly upset by the apparent failure of the Bank to support its proposals for an adjustment to monetary items in the inflation accounting debate. Also, plans to give the Bank statutory powers over the banking system have raised questions about its future relationship with the clearing banks.

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Insurance shares slump after rights issue surprises market

Commercial Union to raise £73.8m

By Richard Allen

Commercial Union Assurance the country's largest insurance group, yesterday launched a £73.8m rights issue—its second within three-and-a-half years—to support what the group describes as "prudent growth" over the next few years.

Although speculation about a CU funding operation has been rife for several weeks, the size and timing of the issue surprised the stock market and caused a heavy shakeout in insurance shares. There was evidence that some Scottish institutions had rejected underwriting opportunities.

CU is asking shareholders to take up new shares at 130p on the basis of one for every six held, representing a discount on Friday night's closing price of 15¼ per cent. But the group's shares tumbled 14p on the news to close last night at 140p.

Speculation that other composites may follow the lead caused shares of Royal Insurance, which reports its third quarter results today, to slump 30p to 395p. Sun Alliance fell back 33p to 572p and General Accident closed 12p lower at 240p.

CU's call was accompanied by nine months' pre-tax profits figures nearly 140 per cent higher at £66.7m, and the promise of a 10 per cent dividend increase for the current year taking the ex-rights yield to just under 8½ per cent.

Stockbrokers to the issue, Cazenove and Hoare Govett, said yesterday that the underwriting had gone "satisfactorily".

However, it is understood that some institutional shareholders, particularly in Scotland have taken strong exception to the issue coming at a time when CU stock from the 1974 £62m rights issue and the £42m share takeover of Estates House Investment Trust earlier this year is still acting as a severe depressant on the market.

The rights call comes after a heavy rationalization programme and a boardroom row which resulted in Mr Gordon Dunlop resigning his £53,400-a-year post as chief executive in June and being replaced by Mr Jack Emms.

Mr Emms said yesterday that although the present level of shareholders funds is well in excess of statutory requirements the board felt that they should be strengthened further to provide a suitable margin for prudent growth.

As a result of the new cash shareholders funds should increase from about £514m to £588m representing around 52 per cent of net written non-life premium income for the 12 months to September 30. This puts the CU's solvency ratio into the middle range of British insurance groups.

Mr Emms said yesterday that the recent sale of its German and Austrian subsidiaries for £15m combined with strong premium discipline had already got the solvency ratio moving in the right direction.

But, he said, further funds were thought desirable particularly to accommodate growth in business arising from premium rate increases and from the effects of inflation on sums insured.

Results for the first 9 months of this year actually show a reduction in premium income of more than 2 per cent to £875.5m. But the group says this reflects underlying growth of 7 per cent after allowing for exchange rate movements and the sale of the European subsidiaries.

Much of the improvement continues to come from the United States, where the underwriting deficit has been cut from £25.5m in the first three quarters of last year to £4.8m.

Underwriting results are continuing to improve in all major United States classes, while in the United Kingdom where the deficit has been cut from £2.7m to £800,000 after taking account of £3.3m from unearned premium provisions results are said to be improving, particularly in the motor and fire classes.

Australia has swung from a £4.7m loss to a surplus of £1.4m but market conditions are said to be coming increasingly difficult while western Europe—mainly Holland—has seen a deficit grow from £11.2m to £15.7m, largely as a result of inadequate rates for motor business.

A rise in investment income from £91.1m to £95.8m reflects a growth in available investment funds and includes earnings of £1.8m from Estates House.

Plan to split Leyland Cars group likely soon

By Clifford Webb

Mr Michael Edwardes, British Leyland's new executive chairman, is expected to announce organization and management changes tomorrow which will result among other things in Leyland Cars being split into five profit accountable divisions.

Sources within the company suggested last night that the divisions will be: small cars, medium cars, large cars, specialist and sports cars, parts and servicing.

These classifications were introduced some months ago by the sales and marketing department and their extension to profits has been advocated increasingly within the company.

They also follow the pattern established by the recent changes introduced by Mr Desmond Pitcher, chairman of Leyland Truck and Bus. He has set up four subdivisions: heavy vehicles, medium, light vehicles, passenger vehicles and parts.

The strongest possible hint about the changes in the pipeline for cars came yesterday from Mr Edwardes himself. In an interview prominently displayed on the front page of the company newspaper *British Leyland Mirror*, he said: "The decentralization technique is already paying dividends in certain areas of British Leyland.

"Truck and Bus are really quite decentralized now with many profit centres. Special Products is much the same and the same applies to Leyland International. The Cars group is less decentralized but that is something to be looked at.

"I believe that people enjoy their jobs more if they have specific authority. I believe in the profit centre concept. I believe in deploying people into the area where profits are made and where goods are produced."

In a comment which will find ready support throughout Leyland Cars, he concluded: "If I preach anything it will be to decentralize authority down to where the knowledge exists for the decisions to be taken. We have to establish far more local say."

Leyland Cars central staff under Mr Derek Whittaker, managing director, are expected to remain in their Coventry headquarters but will assume a coordinating role with largely autonomous subdivisions.

However, their number will be much reduced as senior executives and specialists are moved out to form the new management teams for the subdivisions.

Mr Edwardes assumed his duties on November 1—hardly time to recruit from outside—so all the present changes will be internal. It is known, however, that he has already taken the initial steps to "head-hunt" at least two senior managers to reinforce the existing management structure at Leyland Cars.

Government will boost BSC borrowing powers to meet crisis

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, indicated to Labour MPs from steel constituencies last night that the Government would introduce a Bill this parliamentary session to increase the borrowing powers of the British Steel Corporation to enable it to meet the present crisis. Losses this year may exceed £500m.

The Bill will be produced in the new year, but before Parliament adjourns for the Christmas recess Mr Varley hopes to have Cabinet endorsement for a statement which will specify those sections of the industry which have to be closed in the interests of more efficient and competitive production.

It is expected that the closure of old plant will mean the reduction of the workforce by about 14,000 workers, and the 20 or so Labour MPs who attended last night's meeting seemed to concede Mr Varley's argument that, because the world steelmaking capacity so much exceeds demand, there had to be a cut in the British industry to enable the more efficient sectors to survive.

The main questions all MPs asked: "here is the axe to fall? And will the Government make proper preparations for the sudden loss of employment which will have severe effects on the life of steel-making communities?"

Mr Varley was unable to answer. He said that talks with the unions and the corporation were continuing and no conclusions had yet been reached. He did not expect to be able to announce the decision soon. Most MPs got the impression that it would come just before the Christmas recess. Generous redundancy terms would be offered.

The minister confirmed that loans made available for capital expenditure were now being used for current spending, including wages. But he emphasized that it was not a financial crisis that now afflicted the industry; it was industrial. The demand was not there. It was a worldwide affliction.

Call to CBI for cut to 50pc top tax rate

By Donald Macintyre

A strong call for a cut in income tax to a top level of 50 per cent was led at the Confederation of British Industry's first conference in Brighton by Mr Michael Edwardes, the new chairman of British Leyland.

The CBI council is to consider adopting this target as policy at its next meeting later this month.

Mr Edwardes said that the present "penal" rates of taxation on earned and investment income should be progressively reduced to 50 per cent by 1979 "at the very latest".

"There is no other single action that a Chancellor could take that would so simply and dramatically unleash the energy of the nation, encourage savings, create jobs, and harness the skill and talent of this great nation from the shop floor to the board room."

The president of "one of our North American competitors" had disclosed to him that 100 British immigrant executives were working for his company. "We must need our heads read to allow the flight from Britain of talented managers in this way because of fiscal policies". Mr Edwardes said.

He was speaking as a vice-president of the British Institute of Management, but his plain speaking suggests that his appointment to Leyland will not deter him from taking a strong stand on public policy matters in future.

A platform resolution, proposed by Sir Adrian Cadbury, chairman of Cadbury Schweppes endorsed the policy in the conference document "Britain Means Business 1977" for a maximum tax rate of 60 per cent by 1979 to 1980.

It was passed in the end with barely any opposition but only after Lord Watkinson, president of the CBI, had gone out of his way to stress that the CBI Council would "look again" at a policy which was not strong enough for many businessmen.

The conference document policy advocates a reduction in total taxation by 5 per cent of the gross domestic product over five years. The CBI calculates that this would be equivalent to £6,000m at current prices and would permit a cut of 30 per cent in the amount taken in income tax.

This would be possible if the present level of public expenditure was maintained but not increased, the CBI says.

Bitterness over what the CBI sees as "gross over-government" was ventilated at Brighton yesterday when the delegates backed a demand that ministers "stem the flood" of legislation and confine public expenditure to present levels.

The resolution, proposed from the platform by Mr Trevor Holdsworth, deputy chairman of Guest Keen & Nettlefolds, was passed unanimously.

Lord Watkinson told delegates before the vote that they should take the resolution as embracing outright opposition to the Government's devolution proposals as well as to laws directly affecting industry.

Mr Holdsworth declared: "We are already some way down the path that leads from state control of supply, to state dictation of demand."

He told the conference that 44 per cent of the nation's income was spent by the state with the "decisions being taken not by the consuming public, but by politicians and bureaucrats".

Falls in industrial output and retail sales underline sluggish economy

By Caroline Atkinson

Clear evidence of the depressed state of the "real" economy came yesterday with the publication of official figures showing that industrial output fell in September and retail sales in October were lower for the second month running.

Although the figures are only provisional, and the falls recorded only slight, they offer little cheer to the Government.

The continued failure of the economy to pick up significantly this year is now receiving more attention from both the Government and its critics. Britain's financial health has improved dramatically, but this has not yet led to benefits in terms of greater output or more jobs.

Mr Healey's latest mini-Budget will go some way to encourage faster growth in the economy, and officials were yesterday emphasizing that the future looks much brighter than the past as shown in these figures.

However, the Government's fiscal stance (as measured by the Public Sector Borrowing requirement) after the latest measures is still more restrictive than the original intention agreed with the International Monetary Fund last year.

The latest official forecasts are for a rise of 3½ per cent in gross national product in the year to end 1978. This, it is maintained, would be fast enough to turn the trend of rising unemployment.

However internal Treasury forecasts see the bulk of this growth coming in the second half of next year, with a meagre 1½ per cent annual rate of growth forecast for the next six months.

One reason for the disappointing performance of industrial production in the past few months is that there was a lot of involuntary stockbuilding earlier in the year.

Industry is meeting such increases in demand as there have been by running down some of these stocks.

In the past three months industrial output as a whole has risen by about ¾ per cent at an annual rate. It now stands ½ per cent above the level of a year earlier.

Manufacturing industry has done a little worse. Output in the third quarter of this year was ½ per cent lower than last year and scarcely changed from the previous three months.

Industries which have performed best in the latest few months, such as metal manufacture and textiles, are typically those which did worst earlier in the year. The overall pattern is one of continued sluggishness.

Mining and quarrying has been the one bright spot with a 19 per cent rise in output between the third quarter of 1976 and the same time this year. But the rapid expansion came to a halt over the summer.

Consumer industries grew by 1½ per cent between the second and third quarters. Meanwhile output in investment and intermediate goods industries fell by ½ per cent.

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Britain's export competitiveness eroded

Continued from page 1

current account surplus will be lower next year than some earlier estimates had suggested, even though we will be rapidly moving towards self-sufficiency in oil. A current account surplus of only about £1,500m is now officially predicted for 1978.

Equally, it is clear that Britain is suffering a steady erosion of its export competitiveness. This is even before the pound was allowed to appreciate on the international currencies markets at the end of last month.

According to the key index of export competiveness used by the technicians of the International Monetary Fund, prices of our goods sold overseas improved 18 per cent in the wake of the devaluation of sterling last year. By late summer, a third of this improvement had been eroded.

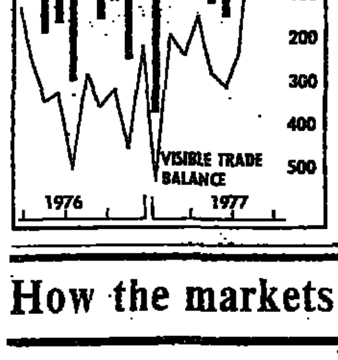
There were a number of special factors behind the £148m fall in exports and the £99m fall in imports during October. Government statisticians calculate that movements of exceptional costly items like precious stones, ships, aircraft and North Sea installations were responsible for about two thirds of the fall in exports and half the fall in imports last month.

In addition, the American east coast docks strike, which began on October 1, may have reduced exports and imports last month.

Yet, while these factors would account for the fall of 4½ per cent in the volume of exports last month, they do not explain why the volume of exports have increased by only 1 per cent during the past three months, compared with the previous three months.

Special factors have also disguised to some extent the underlying volume trend of imports. According to the official figures, the volume of imports dropped by 6 per cent between May-July and August-October, but when special items are excluded, it would appear that the volume of imports showed no such fall.

Tables, page 20



Cost of profitable state steel spelt out to unions

The British Steel Corporation last night signposted the way to a profitable state steel industry, but at a cost in lost jobs and plant closures that the unions will almost certainly find unacceptable.

Mr Bob Scholey, chief executive of BSC, said in four hours of talks with the executive of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation that the industry could not continue on its present downward financial spiral.

Executives told the union's leaders that the industry could move back into profitability if the current depleted order book was loss-making plant to modern, low-cost capacity, and if plants providing jobs rather than steel products were shut down.

British Steel is seeking the cooperation of the unions rather than risk another publicly embarrassing confrontation of the sort that characterized the last such round of talks early last year.

Voluntary redundancies in some plants on the "generous" terms suggested by BSC, but any accelerated rundown of the Beswick plants at present kept open in development areas by government instructions will be opposed.

The unions are also throwing much of the blame on the financial accountancy of British Steel.

More details of BSC's economy proposals came out during last night's talks.—New investment will be severely curtained. There will be no new plate mill, and the provision of electric arc furnaces at Hunterston and Shelton is also being abandoned.

£21m coal stake for BP in Australia

British Petroleum is to invest A$35m (about £21.6m) for a 50 per cent stake in the Clarence coal mine in New South Wales, Australia, in partnership with Oakbridge (which was formerly Slater Walker Australia).

Production is due to begin in 1979 and the cash injection will allow maximum output of 2 million tonnes a year to be brought forward to 1982. The deal is subject to the approval of both the federal and state governments.

Financial Editor, page 21

Aramco chief retires at 51

New York, Nov 14.—In a surprising move Mr Frank Jungers is retiring as chairman and chief executive officer of Arabian American Oil Co, the world's biggest oil producer, on January 1.

Mr John J. Kelberer, Aramco's senior vice-president operations, will succeed Mr Jungers. Mr R. W. Powers, the president, will assume the additional duties of vice-chairman, a new position. All three men are 51.

Aramco, which accounts for the bulk of Saudi Arabia's oil output, is owned by Exxon, Texaco, Mobil and Standard Oil of California. The Saudi Government owns 60 per cent of Aramco's producing assets, and a full government takeover is pending.

Dollar falls again

The dollar closed in London at 245 yen yesterday, after falling to an all-time low of 244.25, at 2.246 Deutsche marks, and 2.203 Swiss francs.

Sterling was unchanged from Friday at $1.816 to the dollar and down 0.1 at 63.7 on the effective rate index.

Rising yen: page 21

Plane may be scrapped

VFW-Fokker, the Dutch-West German aircraft group, has confirmed that it would like to stop production of the VFW 614 airliner at the end of this year if its efforts to sell the aircraft yield no success.

Glaxo acquisition

Glaxo, the United Kingdom pharmaceuticals group, is to make its first acquisition in the United States with the £15m purchase of Meyer Laboratories, a privately-owned ethical drugs business based in Florida.

Financial Editor, page 21

Nuts and bolts duty

Brussels, Nov 14.—The European Community has imposed an extra tariff of 15 per cent on imports from Taiwan of iron and steel threaded nuts and bolts. The Commission has also started anti-dumping procedures against imports from Japan of "mounted piezo electric quartz crystal" used by the electronics industry.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 208.53 – 1.14
The FT index: 496.7 – 4.7

Rises

Bullough	8p to 132p	McInerney Prop	6p to 40p
Camellia Inv	10p to 240p	Newmark L	10p to 160p
Daily Mail Tst	8p to 330p	Perry H Mtrs	12p to 160p
Hillards	12p to 277p	Sirdar	6p to 55p
Jourdan T	8p to 40p	Sobranie	2p to 25p
Lasmo	7p to 184p	Walker J Gold	8p to 102p
Malayan Tin	7p to 410p	Webb J	1p to 15p

Falls

Brit Dredging	2p to 21p	Libanon	26p to 412p
Comm Union	14p to 140p	Kennies Cons	4p to 54p
Durban Rood	29p to 306p	Royal	30p to 395p
Elsburg Gold	9p to 103p	Southvaal	23p to 407p
Gen Acc	12p to 240p	Spencer Gears	2p to 23p
GKN	12p to 276p	Sun Alliance	33p to 572p
Harrison Cros	13p to 337p	Western Areas	12p to 163p

Equities fell back.
Gilt-edged securities clipped early losses.
Dollar premium 101 per cent (effective rate 39.51 per cent).
Sterling was unchanged at $1.8160.
The effective exchange rate index was at 63.7.

Gold lost $1.25 an ounce to $165.375.
SDR-$ was 1.18003 on Monday, while SDR-£ was 0.649260.
Commodities: Reuter's index was at 1463.7 (previous 1465.5).

Reports, pages 22 and 23

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	1.66	1.61
Austria Sch	30.75	28.75
Belgium Fr	66.75	63.75
Canada $	2.06	2.01
Denmark Kr	11.45	11.05
Finland Mkk	7.75	7.50
France Fr	9.10	8.78
Germany Dm	4.27	4.05
Greece Dr	76.75	72.25
Hongkong $	8.85	8.40
Italy Lr	1630.00	1575.00
Japan Yn	470.00	445.00
Netherlands Gld	4.60	4.38
Norway Kr	10.26	9.90
Portugal Esc	78.00	74.00
S Africa Rd	1.76	1.64
Spain Pes	157.00	151.00
Sweden Kr	9.00	8.65
Switzerland Fr	4.20	3.98
US $	1.86	1.81
Yugoslavia Dnr	39.00	36.25

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

On other pages

Le Monde
LA STAMPA
THE TIMES
DIE WELT

Europa

Search for settled parities goes on

Yen holds centre stage in currency manoeuvring

On the currency front the manoeuvring continues, pending the establishment of more settled parities. Shifts of position on the present scale do not take place without some groping in the dark—decisions and counter-decisions—nor without some disasters.

The centre of the stage is still being held by the yen which, having broken through the threshold of 250 yen to the dollar, has now risen by more than 7 per cent since the relatively stable period in August and by more than 12 per cent since the spring.

After the British Government's hasty abandonment of its very recent decision to hold the pound at $1.77, sterling also put on a spurt to $1.84, but fell back again to $1.81.

The other currencies, although cast in minor roles, are also rising against the dollar, but more moderately and really only by way of reaction to events elsewhere; the Deutsche mark by some 3 per cent and the French franc by a little more than 1.5 per cent since August. The lira, on the other hand, has fluctuated little against the dollar.

The problem for each country is to make the choice—if circumstances allow—of the most judicious course in the light of two contradictory objectives: to combat inflation and to sustain exports.

Finding the right solution is made none the easier by the need to take account of the disparate pressures from the unions, the employers and the monetary authorities. This is the debate now taking place in Britain.

Although the recent thrust by the pound should, as the Government thinks, reduce inflation by a further 1 per cent, it will not help matters for such as the motor industry, with imported cars already accounting for more than 50 per cent of new vehicle registrations, whereas it will oblige British industry to improve productivity.

Another rule of the monetary game is that it is essential to avoid uncontrolled lurches in either direction.

This is all the more difficult in that the western world is currently awash with the swelling tide of volatile petrodollars vainly in search of long-term investments. Hence governments' considerable problems in controlling parities and money supply. In some instances the latter can increase sharply, raising fears of inflationary pressures.

It is interesting in this connexion to compare the statistics on prices in the economic table with those on the money supply in the financial table. The latter have shown strong growth over the past three months in Britain (21 per cent) and West Germany (15 per cent) although prices are rising more slowly, at 7 per cent in Britain and are stable in West Germany. Much the same is true of the United States, where growth in the money supply is running at more than 10 per cent while inflation is still slowing (currently a little oer 4 per cent).

By way of contrast, France has achieved an improbable conjugation of low monetary growth (5 per cent) and an inflation rate stubbornly refusing to fall below 9 per cent, much to the surprise and chagrin of the Government.

All these examples demonstrate the caution and discernment needed in judging a situation in the light of the respective effects of foreign and domestic capital. This is particularly true of the United States were a heated controversy, not to say dispute is brewing between the Carter Administration and the still independent monetary authority embodied by Dr Arthur Burns.

In the eyes of the former, the current policy of monetary restrictions which has pushed interest rates up by more than 30 per cent in a matter of a few months (prime rate is now nearly 8 per cent) is jeopardizing United States growth just when it is beginning to gather some impetus.

According to the latter, the prime objective is to defeat inflation by attacking its monetary roots.

This is an important debate. It shows the extent to which disruption of the international monetary system throws governments into confusion.

The resultant dislocation is undermining the authorities' credibility, especially in the United States, so that it is hardly surprising that Wall Street is at a low ebb with investors more reluctant than ever even though the growth rate is still perfectly respectable.

Maurice Bommensath

THE ECONOMY

	Growth (per cent) industrial production (1)	Investment (2)	Wage increases (per cent) (1)	Budget deficit— (3, 4)	Stability trade balance (2, 4)	Inflation rate per cent (1)
United States	4	7	8	−2.5 (−45)	−2 (−3.1)	4.5
West Germany	0	4	7	−2.9 (−35)	+2.7 (+2.8)	0
France	−2	1	11	−1 (−16)	−2 (−2.8)	9
Great Britain	0	8	5	−5 5 (−7)	−0.6 (−0.1)	7
Italy	−3	2	30	−9 (−1400)	+0.6 (+90)	10

(1) Three-month average expressed as annual rate.
(2) Estimate for 1977.
(3) Estimate for fiscal 1977-78.
(4) As percentage of gnp and in national currency (000m).

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS

	Annual growth per cent in money supply (M1) (5)	Interest rate (per cent): Day to Day	Interest rate (per cent): Prime rate	Foreign exchange rate: Against the dollar (6)	Foreign exchange rate: Against basket of 6 currencies (7)	Change in stock exchange per cent index (8)
Dollar	10 (8)	6.6	7.75	—	98.9 (100.0)	−3 (−15)
Deutschemark	15 (9)	4.0	6.00	2.26 (+2)	115.0 (114.5)	+3 (+11)
Franc	5 (6)	8.6	9.30	4.85 (+0.5)	91.5 (92.2)	+3 (+17)
Pound	21 (12)	4.0	6.00	1.81 (+3)	87.8 (86.6)	−4 (+60)
Lira	— (22)	11.7	17.00	879 (+0.5)	77.0 (77.5)	−6 (−15)

(5) Six months moving average expressed at annual rate.
(6) Figures in parentheses give percentage change in last month.
(7) End December 1975=100. Figure in parentheses gives position last month. Currencies are five listed in table plus Japanese yen.
(8) Change in previous month. Figure in parentheses gives change over previous 12 months.

Ford Halewood plant again at a standstill

The £110m Ford car plant at Halewood, Liverpool, was again at a standstill yesterday and will remain so throughout the day and night shifts which have changed over on their fortnightly rota.

The night shift of last week, laid off because of a strike by 21 men in the paint shop over a manning dispute, reported for duty normally yesterday and the management expected full production.

But the 21 men, who are key workers, walked out again and the company had to lay off the 3,500 hourly paid men from the assembly and body stamping plants.

Meanwhile, last week's day shift, laid off because of an unofficial strike by 200 men in the paint shop over a discipline issue, did not operate.

Clifford Webb writes: A new realism was blowing through the motor factories and recent wage settlement gave cause for great encouragement, said Mr David Plastow, president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, speaking at the Scottish Motor Show banquet in Glasgow last night. He said next year's International Motor Show at Birmingham would be the biggest in the 75-year history of the SMMT.

British Shipbuilders pressing Poles for agreement on £115m deal in two weeks

By Edward Townsend

British Shipbuilders is increasing the pressure on the Polish authorities to reach agreement rapidly on the details of Poland's £115m order for 24 ships.

Negotiators from Warsaw are likely to be in London again this week for further talks but although British Shipbuilders has stressed the need for agreement within two weeks it was reluctant yesterday to specify a date for the signing of contracts.

There are no signs that the deal is in jeopardy, but the protracted discussions over the share-out of equipment work and financing are causing concern.

Britain's hard-pressed shipyards are also keen to be making a start on the vessels and the beleaguered British Steel Corporation would welcome an early order for the large amounts of steel that will be needed.

British Shipbuilders has faced a degree of embarrassment since the Prime Minister announced at the Labour Party conference six weeks ago that the deal would be concluded by the end of October. Executives feel that with a contract of this size, delays in agreeing on the small print are not unusual.

One of the main points at issue is the proportion of Polish-made equipment to be installed, particularly engines. It has now been agreed that British Shipbuilders will take a licence from the Swiss engine manufacturer Sulzer and half of the engines for the 15 smaller ships in the deal will be built in Britain.

Final details of the financing of the contracts depend on sorting out the equipment aspects. The British Government has already committed nearly £30m from the Intervention Fund established earlier this year and the Poles have been given 100 per cent credit on the remainder.

Teheran officials cleared of sugar deal charges

Two commerce ministry under-secretaries were acquitted in Teheran yesterday on charges of causing the government a loss of more than $30m (about £16.5m) in sugar purchases involving the British company Tate & Lyle two years ago.

A three-member tribunal said the defendants Hussein Alizadeh and Muhammad Ali Seyrafi, were innocent

The defendants were charged with buying 250,000 tons of sugar from the British firm at prices higher than those prevailing in the market, thereby causing a loss of $30.4m to the government. Tate & Lyle denied any wrong-doing

Engineering council changes method of registration

By Derek Harris

The Council of Engineering Institutions (CEI), at the centre of the controversy over the organizations of the engineering profession which led to the setting up of the Finniston inquiry, is changing its system for the registration of chartered engineers.

Ahead of the Finniston inquiry, due to start work before the end of the year, CEI has decided to switch registration from its own standing committee to a new chartered engineers section of the Engineers Registration Board.

It may be that the CEI will argue before the inquiry that the board, with its wider spread compared with the CEI, whose direct membership consists of only 18 largely chartered organizations, could be used as the vehicle for a profession-wide registration system.

The other main option on this likely to be put to the inquiry is for the Government to set up a statutory registration system.

B. the new move would appear to do little in practical terms to make it easier for any professional engineer, whatever his parent organization, to achieve chartered status.

The new chartered engineers section will be open only to those engineers who are members of the 16 organizations which are full members of the CEI or the two—the institutions of nuclear engineers and highway engineers—recently made affiliate members of the CEI.

The Engineers Registration Board was established under powers granted to the CEI with the object of registering those suitably qualified as chartered engineers, technician engineers and technicians, dispensing the qualification titles of CEng, TEng (CEI) and Tech(CEI).

UK TRADE

The following are the October trade figures seasonally adjusted and corrected on a balance of payments basis with allowance for known recording errors:

	Exports £m	Imports £m	Visible balance £m
1976	25,416	28,987	−3,571
1977 Q1	7,440	8,402	−962
Q2	8,036	8,769	−733
Q3 r	8,418	8,447	−29
1976			
Oct	2,306	2,624	−361
Nov	2,320	2,775	−455
Dec	2,448	2,662	−214
1977			
Jan	2,479	3,017	−538
Feb	2,437	2,625	−188
March	2,504	2,747	−243
April	2,649	2,795	−146
May	2,612	2,889	−277
June	2,775	3,085	−310
July r	2,735	2,966	−231
Aug r	2,767	2,645	+122
Sept r	2,916	2,836	+80
Oct p	2,768	2,737	+31

r revised
p provisional

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT

The following are the index numbers for industrial production in September. seasonally adjusted, released by the Central Statistical Office yesterday (1970=100):

	All Industrial	M'facturing total
1976		
Sept	102.4	104.4
Oct	102.8	104.8
Nov	103.4	105.0
Dec	103.5	104.5
1977		
Jan	103.7	105.4
Feb	103.4	105.6
March	103.5	105.7
April	102.5	103.7
May	103.7	105.2
June	100.3	100.3
July	102.4	103.6
Aug	102.7	103.2
Sept p	102.0	102.6
Percentage change latest three months on previous at annual rate	+0.8	+0.3

p provisional

TERMS OF TRADE

The following are the unit value index numbers for visible trade not seasonally adjusted, issued by the Department of Trade yesterday:

	Exports (1970=100)	Imports (1970=100)	Terms of Trade*
1974	162.7	218.0	75.6
1975	198.5	246.1	80.7
1976	240.6	300.3	80.1
1976 Q1	219.0	269.1	81.4
Q2	234.2	292.6	80.0
Q3	247.4	308.2	80.3
Q4	261.7	331.0	79.1
1977 Q1	274.5	341.4	80.4
Q2	280.9	350.7	80.1
Q3 r	288.4	351.9	82.0
1977			
Jan	272.7	336.7	81.0
Feb	273.9	340.1	80.5
March	275.8	345.8	80.0
April	277.4	349.4	79.4
May	282.5	350.1	80.7
June	282.8	352.7	80.2
July	283.9	354.4	80.1
Aug r	289.4	351.2	82.4
Sept r	291.8	350.0	83.4
Oct p	293.1	348.7	84.0

r revised
p provisional

RETAIL SALES

The following are the seasonally adjusted figures for retail sales released by the Department of Industry:

	Sales by volume 1970=100 seas adj	Percentage change latest 3 months on previous 3 months at annual rate	Sales by value percentage change on 2 year earlier £m
1976			
Oct	108.1	+3.8	+16
Nov	109.2	+1.5	+18
Dec	108.3	−1.5	+16
1977			
Jan	106.7	−2.1	+12
Feb	105.7	−6.6	+15
March	103.1	−11.8	+14
April	103.4	−14.0	+12
May	104.4	−12.7	+15
June	103.8	−4.1	+14
July	107.0	+4.3	+16
Aug	107.2	+10.9	+16
Sept	106.2	+11.6	+14
Oct p	106.0	+5.4	+13

p provisional

12 more alleged price-fixing pacts registered

A further 12 alleged price-fixing agreements in the ready-mixed concrete industry were yesterday placed on the register of restrictive practices by Mr Gordon Borrie, Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading. The total registered now stands at 85. More are expected.

Mr Borrie has said that he intends to take all such cases to the Restrictive Practices Court.

Yesterday's additions to the register show that the alleged price-fixing agreements extend to the North-west. The 12 areas referred to were: Colchester, Chelmsford and Ipswich; Bacup, Colne, Blackburn and Accrington; Leeds; Wellingborough; Daventry; Liverpool; Manchester; Abergele; Hereford; Burton on Trent; Leominster and Ludlow, and Derby.

Home-building revival

Further evidence of a gradual recovery in the demand for new private housing is provided in the latest state-of-trade inquiry by the House-Builders' Federation. More than a third of respondents report improving demand, while only 13 per cent say demand is worse. The uncertain economic climate remains the chief factor limiting demand though the inquiry shows signs that the tide may be turning.

Short-time pay rise

A draft Order laid before the Commons yesterday proposes that from February 1, 1978 the limit on the amount of guarantee payment made to workers on short-time or temporary lay-off will be raised from £6 to £6.60 a day. The limit on the weekly amount covered by the insolvency provisions of the Employment Protection Act for such things as arrears of pay or similar payments will also be increased, from £80 to £100.

TUC critical of energy growth estimates

By Our Technology Correspondent

The Trades Union Congress, in a statement to the Government's Energy Commission says that the growth estimates assumed by the Department of Energy in its future planning are conservative.

If North Sea oil resources are used wisely, the TUC argues, the economy should be able to grow at a faster rate in the next 20 years than in the past 20 years, and it would be wrong to plan on the basis of demand forecasts below the range of 540-560 million tons of coal equivalent.

The problem of closing the energy gap is not just one of boosting energy supplies, the TUC says; it is also one of deriving new technologies so that available primary energy can be converted into a useful form.

Decisions are needed now on both these problems if supply and demand are to be matched in the 1990s.

Part of the revenue from offshore oil should be used to finance a research and development programme on alternative sources of energy such as wave power and solar power, the TUC says. These revenues should also be used to finance investment in the coal and nuclear industries.

On nuclear power, the TUC says that an early decision on the choice of thermal reactor should be taken to boost confidence in the industry.

Because of a possible shortage of natural uranium, an early decision to construct a commercial-scale fast breeder reactor is called for.

17 companies have signed BNOC participation pacts

Final participation agreements have now been signed with 17 North Sea Oil companies, giving the British National Oil Corporation the right to purchase 51 per cent of output, it was disclosed in the Commons yesterday.

The latest total, higher than had previously been publicized, was given by Dr Mabon, Minister of State for Energy. The list includes Ashland Oil and Deminex, which operate the Thistle field, Occidental (Piper and Claymore) Santa Fe (Thistle) and Union group (Heather).

The BNOC has also signed outline agreements with a further 24 North Sea companies and is now negotiating final participation deals.

It is also believed that the corporation is in the last stages of negotiating final agreements with the Shell/Esso group, once the most vigorous opponents of the Government's policy of state participation

Shell and Esso, which share Brent, the biggest North Sea oil field, were persuaded finally to sign a participation pact after agreement by the BNOC that it would sell back to the companies, at the price it pays, sufficient North Sea crude to support their United Kingdom refining. This will give the Government rights over almost all the North Sea's oilfields.

Dr Mabon also announced yesterday that exports of North Sea crude in the 12 months ending September 30 were nearly 13 million tons, representing almost 40 per cent of production and valued at £750m. Total oil output in the period was 32 million tonnes, 60 per cent of which went to Western Europe,

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

A 'catalogue of injustices'

From Mr W. G. Francis

Sir, If Mr Mordsley (November 7) is not aware of the injustices of the Employment Protection Act then I can only conclude that his School of Business Studies has not devoted much time to small businesses.

Regrettably the catalogue of injustices, anomalies and plain bureaucratic stupidity is of such size that it would be unreasonable to expect it to be listed within your columns. However, I have but to quote one example in order to illustrate the inhibiting nature of the Employment Protection Act. If an employer is summoned to appear before the tribunal he is required to prove his innocence. This is entirely contrary to the normal concept of British justice. Furthermore, he has no protection at all should he become involved in frivolous or malicious actions.

I would emphasize that we in the independent company sector do not seek to have the Act repealed but to have it amended where the provisions are clearly counter-productive. There are, of course, many other areas of legislation, especially taxation, which can be held to be partially responsible for the current low level of employment but in my original letter I deliberately confined my observations to the pernicious Employment Protection Act.

Yours faithfully,
W. G. FRANCIS,
Francis & Lewis Ltd,
Fairview Road,
Cheltenham, GL52 2EW,
Gloucestershire.
November 9.

From Mr C. F. C. Simeons

Sir, Mr Mordsley claims (November 7) that it is not the Employment Protection Act which is inhibiting independent companies from taking on more people because other countries have more stringent legislation and yet are free from the problems which Mr Francis (November 2) cited.

Could he tell us in which countries, legislation is so framed that for rights extended to trades unionists no corresponding right is afforded to the employer; where conditions imposed by bodies which are clearly not independent can be forced upon an employer without right of appeal; where trades unions alone have the right to appoint representatives to safety committees (Health and Safety at Work).

True, this is only one of the pieces of legislation detering those running independent companies from taking on more people, but it is surely the catalyst which is expected to inspire an anticipated 100,000 people to appeal to tribunals next year against unfair dismissal when statistics clearly show that a very large percentage are likely to fail. If the Act isn't a motivating force could Mr Mordsley tell us what is?

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES SIMEONS,
Chairman Central Government Committee,
Union of Independent Companies,
21 Ludlow Avenue,
Luton,
Bedfordshire, LU1 3RW.
November 7.

Siting of Channel Tunnel

From Mr R. Coombs

Sir, May I be permitted to add some relevant facts to the report by Mr Derek Harris (*The Times*, October 26, 1977) on the prospect of EEC funding for the Channel Tunnel?

"Some environmentalists", he says, "have questioned whether a new high-speed rail link between London and Cheriton, designed to take continental-size rolling stock, would not be a lesser evil than the unchecked growth of heavy lorry traffic through the south-east."

What he does not say is that this is the view of environmentalists who represent the rail lobby. When British Rail held public meetings to explain their proposals for the rail link, many other environmentalists who had the interests of rural Kent at heart voiced the view that the road/rail terminal at Cheriton would have the opposite effect and inevitably increase the volume of both lorry and private car traffic on roads that are not designed to cope with it.

Cheriton, for the information of readers who do not know the area, is close to Folkestone in the extreme south-east corner of Kent. To reach the terminal much of the motor traffic would need to cross most of the county, which has no west-east trunk roads other than the proposed M25 in the extreme north.

Those who opposed the concept of the Cheriton terminal, which was an integral and immutable part of the Anglo-French agreement, would, I believe, have not resisted an alternative scheme for a "rail only" tunnel had this been put forward. Ironically, such an alternative would have been even more in the interests of the railway protagonists who, however, gave their support to the Government proposal, seeing it as offering at least some prospect of an increase in rail freight traffic.

Mr Harris explains that the concept of EEC funding for the tunnel has arisen because it is now realized that other countries in Europe "could benefit from the tunnel". Just so. When the debate in Britain was at its height proponents argued that the tunnel would help our exports—as though it favoured one-way traffic.

Economically, however, the tunnel is not neutral. Its geographical position would favour the factories and warehouses of north-east France, whether French or multinational, rather than those in our more distant industrial regions. This indeed, by no coincidence, is the very argument put forward in a whole-page advertisement placed by the Region Nord-Pas-de-Calais in the same issue of your newspaper. This advertisement is, in effect, an invitation to industrialists to locate their factories and depots at the gateway to England, but not in England itself. To whose advantage? The region is nearer, via the tunnel, to our richest markets than British factories in our own industrial development areas.

ROGER COOMBS,
Spindles,
Goudhurst,
Kent.

Consumerism in the EEC

From Mr A. Dumont

Sir, As the chairman and then vice chairman of the Consumer Consultative Committee to the EEC for the last four years, I very much welcome Michael Shanks' article of November 1.

Much has been done in the last four years since the United Kingdom joined the European Community to advance the consumer cause, and the present Commission certainly speaks in support of a much greater participation by consumers in decisions affecting their welfare, which in the end means nearly every field of the Community's activities.

But although the words have been fine, deeds have not matched them. Insufficient resources have been made available, insufficient staff are being provided, and owing to the Byzantine complexities of the Commission's civil service, no one has even been appointed to replace the invaluable Mr John Braun, who left last December, and the vital Director of Consumer Affairs is not yet appointed.

Although consumers are many, their resources are small and some way must be found in the Community, as in each country, of supporting them so that they can effectively voice their needs.

When the Agricultural Commissioner in Brussels and the British Minister of Agriculture and Food in London ask consumers for their support in reforming the common agricultural policy on the lines proposed by consumers themselves, one realizes what can be done to get a fairer system of looking after the real needs of the citizens of the European Community. But with greater resources and continuing support from all political parties there is very much more that could be achieved to produce a more civilized community of European peoples.

ANTHONY DUMONT,
c/o Consumer Association,
14 Buckingham Street,
London, WC2N 6DS.

Who pays for the taxman's errors?

From Mr I. M. Leslie

Sir, Recently I received from my tax accountant a bill for nearly £100 for work done on my behalf in appealing against (a) an inaccurate notice of coding, (b) an incorrect capital gains assessment which had attracted an overpayment and (c) no fewer than three errors on the inspectors' part in assessment of income, some of which I am assured (but not by the Inland Revenue) will result in repayments.

Since shares were sold at the bottom of the market to satisfy the original inaccurate demands, the distant prospect of refund loses some of its charm.

The accountant, replying to a letter in which I acknowledged the reasonableness of his account but asked whether it should not be claimed as a reasonable expense on my next return, tells me there are no provisions in the Finance Acts under which accountants' fees can be allowed which arise through official error.

This sad little tale cannot be unique, and there may be others who will agree with me that the Inland Revenue either improves its efficiency or else allows the fees of the highly necessary "watchdog" over one's affairs to be set against income.

Yours faithfully,
IAN M. LESLIE,
64 Hamilton Terrace, NW8,
November 10.

Questioning the Monopolies Commission role

From Mr P. Tarrant-Willis

Sir, How long ago was the Monopolies Commission asked "what do you stand for?" Is it to protect the public against conspiracies to charge high costs, or has it become yet another arm of the government in power, and a sign of that power?

I ask this question because I am not sure that the public are getting better value for money following the Commission's investigation of estate agents' selling fees, solicitors' conveyancing fees, and may well not gain anything overall from the investigation now into surveyors' fees.

Yours faithfully,
PETER TARRANT-WILLIS,
20 St Ann's Villas,
Royal Crescent, London W11.
November 11.

Tesco chooses £6m IBM system

A major change from ICL to IBM has been announced by Tesco Stores with the decision to acquire £6m worth of computer equipment, including Model 3032 and 3031 processors, from the latter company.

At present Tesco operates one ICL 2903 and three ICL 1904S computers and a Computer Automation Syfa minicomputer.

Mr Leslie Porter, Tesco chairman, announced the order yesterday, describing it as the largest single capital investment ever made by the company.

"Its magnitude", he said, "reflects the importance which Tesco attaches to its requirement for advanced and sophisticated management information and data-processing systems.

"We have thoroughly assessed our needs into the 1980s and are confident IBM's equipment is the best available to handle successfully our anticipated expansion."

The choice of equipment had followed a searching evaluation over the past two years, involving seven computer manufacturers, Mr Donald Harris, a Tesco director, said.

"The Tesco plans for data-processing necessitate the use of very large files, mostly associated with the automatic replenishment systems currently under development for our 700 stores", Mr Harris commented. "These and other system requirements will place a storage load on the computer in excess of 100,000 million bytes.

"A significant proportion of this data is required to be on-line. IBM's 3850 mass storage system efficiently handles large files while also providing a random-inquiry capability."

In addition to the 3850 mass storage, the order includes a 3032 processor, a 3031 processor, disc storage, two laser printers and 200 visual display units and associated terminals. Delivery is planned for summer 1978 at the company's head office at Cheshunt, Hertfordshire.

Computer news

HP expansion

Easier interconnexions to give a range of distributed computing systems have been announced by Hewlett-Packard. They involve the company's HP3000 business minicomputer, HP1000 manufacturing and technical minicomputer, and HP2000 data-entry and communications terminals.

For the user, and in particular the large manufacturing company, software and hardware developments are aimed at flexibility (in the number of possible network layouts) and comprehensiveness (combining business systems, manufacturing systems and connexion to the central mainframe computer at company headquarters).

Announcing the new systems in Grenoble last week, Mr Derek Smorthit, manager of Hewlett-Packard's United Kingdom computer group, said: "The data-processing facilities of large modern organizations have become virtually their nervous systems, largely determining not only how information flows, but how decisions are made and how control is applied by management.

"A revolution called distributed processing is going on in the configuration of that nervous system, and the implications both for management and for their technical people are enormous".

As the issues of decentralized control were being resolved and network software was becoming available, Mr Smorthit said, controller functions were moving away from central headquarters. HP products would be able to be used in both centralized and decentralized networks, and in mixed installations together with other companies' systems.

Hewlett-Packard's distributed systems network philosophy was based on the principle that functions were "layered", or isolated from one another, so that future developments could be added while holding intact the existing procedures.

The principle of a distributed systems scheme already applied to HP3000 computers was now being extended to HP1000s. Under this scheme, the user of any machine in the network could gain access to files in any other machine in the same network; could transfer files between them using simple high-level commands; could schedule and develop programs on the other machines and use their peripherals.

Among examples of ways in which the distributed systems can be applied, Hewlett-Packard quotes a simple "star" network to improve the efficiency of a single department; a modem-linked "ring" network to connect regional distribution centres; a geographically dispersed network to monitor and control oil production (such a system has been installed for a major United States oil company) and a multi-level network to coordinate a manufacturing operation.

Kenneth Owen

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

CU asks for more

Commercial Union's £73.8m rights issue will be particularly unsettling for insurance company shares because the stock market has only just begun to get over the profound distaste for the sector which had made it one of the worst performers of the preceding 18 months. That distaste stemmed from the difficulties of absorbing a huge volume of insurance company paper, resulting from a variety of rights issues and takeovers, and the feeling that, like the painting of the Forth Bridge, the demands for new capital in the sector would recommence as soon as the previous round was complete.

Latterly CU had itself done much to settle market nerves, its policy of holding back premium income growth, combined with the shedding of the Austrian and German businesses, suggesting that it might not after all have to seek further equity. It was only in March, after all, that it raised £42m by acquiring Estates House Investment Trust, and retained profit has been rising strongly. The sense of disillusionment now will be all the deeper for the misplaced optimism. Next year will see the peaking of the insurance cycle, and the cynics will again be asking whether, since capital is still being raised at this stage, the 1979 downturn will be marked by yet another bout of fund raising.

Unless things go badly wrong, CU itself should be comfortable for four or five years, but its issue has left Royal looking seriously exposed. Previously CU's solvency margin

Sir Francis Sandilands, chairman of Commercial Union.

was 40 per cent and Royal's only slightly higher. The industry average, however, was more like 50 per cent, and with this rights issue under its belt, plus another £70m from a transfer of deferred tax to reserves, CU has now moved up to 52 per cent.

So in the near term the sector is left with two problems. In the first place it will have to absorb CU's issue which could take months. Then it will have to carry the conviction that, sooner or later, Royal will follow with an issue of at least a similar size. Against this kind of background it is hard to see CU's burgeoning profits—£66.7m at the nine month stage against £28m last year, within which underwriting losses are down from £49.8m to £21.6m—having much impact on the shares despite a prospective ex-rights yield of almost 8½ per cent at 140p.

Clearers

A clash with the Bank

That the clearing banks should consider it worth getting on the wrong side of the Bank of England for the seemingly trivial reason of wanting to charge fully if the Bank makes more use of their clearing house facilities is eloquent testament of the fix the clearers are now in on their domestic banking operations.

Admittedly the clearing house is not cheap to run but the actual sums likely to be involved certainly will not make the clearers rich. It seems to mean, then, that after a long period when good profitability elsewhere allowed them to ignore the costs involved in providing a plethora of free services clearers are having to look under every stone on the principle that every little helps.

There have been a growing number of pointers this year, Barclays' admission on Friday that it was looking at the whole structure of its branch network being just the latest. The large branch network that grew up in good times cannot be justified on economic grounds when interest rates are so low and competition from alternative financial institutions like the building societies is luring away depositors in droves.

While the other clearers are keeping quiet about their future plans for their branch networks, it is inconceivable that they are not also looking closely at the structure. The stumbling block is, of course, is that the banks are now much more highly unionized groups and it is equally inconceivable that the unions would allow the banks a smooth ride on rationalization of branches.

Also implicit in the clearers' attitude to any attempt by the Bank of England to move into commercial banking is, apart from the philosophical objections, concern that this is yet another sign of mounting competitive pressures in the whole banking arena. Already there is some political suasion for government agencies to use non-commercial financial institutions like Giro while the Labour Party plans for a state bank is another step along this road.

Buying in America

Glaxo's turn

Although much smaller, Glaxo's intended £15m acquisition of Meyer Laboratories of Florida looks uncannily like a replay of Beecham's £48m purchase of the Calgon consumer products business earlier in the year. As with the Beecham acquisition, the Glaxo deal was not what the market had expected and failed to bring with it the hoped-for increase in dividend.

Beecham later used the Calgon acquisition indirectly to gain Treasury agreement for a 200 per cent dividend increase to assist in the issue of a £17m dollar-convertible bond. Perhaps Glaxo will play the same card. It will not complete until next year by which time it may wish to increase its investment further by building a new plant or suchlike, which would provide a useful excuse for financing on other than the run-of-the-mill overseas borrowings, providing the excuse for a dividend increase.

But it all seems a complicated business to go through if Glaxo really wanted to raise dividends and looks more like a backstop should limitations not be lifted, as everyone expects they will be, in under a year.

Glaxo has achieved the presence in the United States which it wanted, without picking up any proprietary drugs, which it has steered clear of in the past, at 15 times earnings. Its intentions have been known for some time, and it is hardly coincidence that Bayer, Nestlé, Beecham and Boots should all find the United States pharmaceutical market, peculiarly attractive at the same time.

The market's disappointment, however, was shown by a further 8p drop in the shares to 595p, where the yield is still only 2.6 per cent.

● *BP seems to be paying quite a high price for a 50 per cent stake in the Clarence coal deposit in New South Wales: it is putting up A$35m of the A$43m needed to develop the mine and Oakbridge's subsidiary. Coalex, will get the first A$1m of net revenue for six years from the time the venture first produces $1m net.*

But if BP is in a hurry to reach its target of producing 20 million tonnes of coal a year worldwide (with other developments in Australia, Canada and South Africa under way, Clarence brings it half way to target), it also recognizes the political realities of the present international energy situation.

Multinationals are out of favour in Australia and coal is a touchy subject (the Conzinc Riotinto of Australia joint bid for Coal and Allied Industries—currently frozen—did not improve the atmosphere) and thus BP has to be seen to be playing fair.

The deal is subject to the approval of the Federal and state governments. New South Wales favours a minimum 51 per cent local ownership of natural resources and is due to produce new guidelines shortly, but Oakbridge and BP hope that the plans will pass muster.

Clarence will bring to £170m the amount BP has invested in coal in three continents over the past few years. Like other oil majors it has been diversifying its base in the post energy crisis era, even if it was initially slower off the mark than most. Last year it set up a minerals department and has joined a deep sea mining consortium.

The Scotland Bill started its second reading in Parliament yesterday. Bryan Lovell here examines the nationalists' claim to the country's energy resources

When independence runs out of energy . . .

The Scottish National Party is claiming in its latest literature that Scotland has "enough coal for 1,000 years" and "enough oil to provide £1,800m to a Scottish Treasury for 60 years" so why should we tolerate continuing social deprivation within Scotland?

No one doubts the urgency of the social and industrial problems facing Scotland, but it is unhelpful to link these in the public mind with a selective and distorted view of the natural resources simply because one believes that one's own country has a temporary surplus of a desirable resource such as oil.

This is not only a selfish action in a world where most people are still far worse off than the people of Scotland. It is also a dangerously short-sighted view that prejudices the best hope of long-term prosperity for the people of Scotland itself. In short, the nationalists' basic argument is flawed.

Take first the case of coal. Scotland produces about 10 per cent of the United Kingdom annual total production of about 100 million tons, but it is responsible for a disproportionately large part of the National Coal Board's losses and possesses only a few per cent of the NCB's class 1 reserves.

In an independent Scotland many pits could only operate with large subsidies, or import controls, to protect them against cheaper coal from, say, Yorkshire, or possibly later, Belvoir and Oxfordshire.

Writing off reserves by pit closures could be a dangerous practice in the long-term, when coal is expected to offset to some extent the decline in oil production. So at least part of the oil revenues will have to be set aside with this in mind.

What of the oil revenues? First, to talk of revenue from the North Sea fields over "60 years" is a foolish and misleading political trick. The range of estimates of North Sea reserves of oil and natural gas is wide, and there has been an animated public debate between Professor Peter Odell, of Erasmus University, Rotterdam, who is a consultant to the British Department of Energy (higher estimates), and Professor Arthur Whiteman, of Aberdeen University (lower estimates).

Most estimates support Professor Whiteman rather than Professor Odell; it seems likely that there may be between 20,000 million to 30,000 million barrels (roughly 3,000 to 4,000 million tons) of oil that can be extracted economically from rocks beneath the United Kingdom sector of the northern North Sea.

Note that phrase "United Kingdom sector". There is no agreement in existence or remotely in prospect that says how the North Sea could be divided into Scottish and English sectors. The division on an east-west line from Berwick is for three specific matters only: the application of civil and criminal law, of the 1949 Wireless Telegraphy Act, and of the 1960 Radioactive Substances Act and for nothing else.

So, if Scotland becomes independent, how is the oil and gas in the United Kingdom sector to be divided up?

Oil exploration and production in the United Kingdom sector are the business of international companies and international finance, negotiating with a unified British state. It is this international dimension that is crucial.

In terms of present United Kingdom oil consumption of about 100 million tons a year, 4,000 million tons of North Sea oil looks like a healthy amount; in terms of Scottish consumption it is a very healthy amount. But in terms of the *world's* annual consumption of about 3,000 million tons it is less impressive.

It is vital to look at North Sea oil in perspective. Here are reserves that look very large in relation to Scotland's own consumption, yet form perhaps only 2 to 3 per cent of world reserves. The international oil companies take a world view, and their view has to be respected. They are the people who have the expertise and access to capital needed to exploit North Sea oil, and they will strive to produce oil from the fields at a rate and in a fashion that suits them.

Taking a long and ideal view, North Sea oil is something to be jealously conserved as a vital feedstock for the chemical industry, and for essential uses in internal combustion engines; it is certainly not a resource to be squandered on widespread use of private cars and the generation of electricity. In so far as the nationalists wish to conserve oil with this in mind, the policy is admirable.

But surely it is unrealistic to pretend that the present trend towards the rapid build-up in production for international markets from the North Sea fields could be reversed to such an extent that an independent Scotland would have vast oil revenues well into the middle of next century.

There may of course, be discoveries of major new fields on the continental shelf to the north and west of Scotland, or in deeper water in the Rockall area, but one cannot plan for independence on the strength of such a host of geological, political, legal and financial uncertainties.

What then should be the policy? It must first of all recognize that, short of important new discoveries, a replacement for oil both as a source of revenue and as a source of energy will have to be found before the end of the century. To a large extent "energy" and "revenue" are synonymous: it is after all energy that underpins virtually all of man's activities including the most fundamental such as modern agriculture.

So the first call on the oil revenues, as was repeatedly stressed in the recent series of articles in *The Scotsman* ("The oil option"), is to find and develop substitutes for oil as a source of energy.

Coal is just one possibility. Others include nuclear power, solar power, wind power, wave power and tidal power. Allied with all of those are schemes for conserving energy in home and industry alike, and for introducing alternative technologies that are less greedy in their demands for energy.

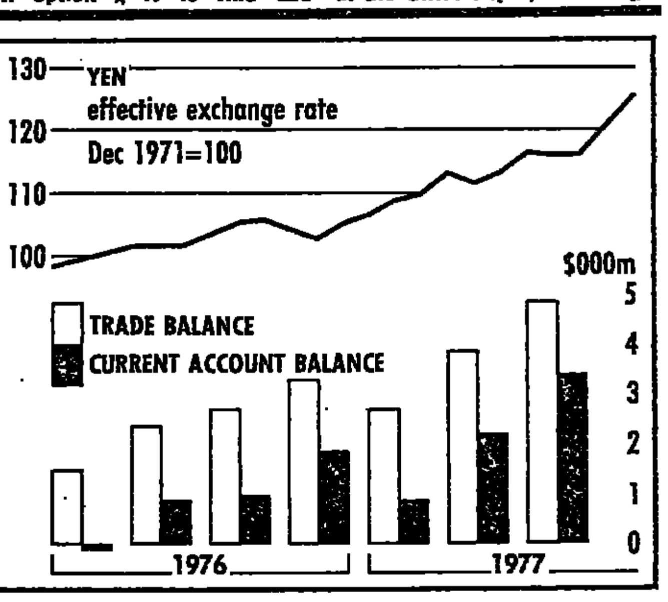
Debate, research and development in those fields is international in scope. Many of the alternatives are capital-intensive; nearly all require a high level of technical expertise at least at the stage of planning and development. At the moment Britain, within Europe and beyond, is heavily involved in research into these possibilities. Scientists working in Scottish laboratories are involved in some of these cooperative programmes; one example is research into wave energy at the University of Edinburgh.

All the trends are towards a breakdown of national barriers in the search for answers to these vital problems, rather than a retreat into nationalism. For nationalism in this increasingly energy-hungry part of the twentieth century does not spell freedom, but the opposite. For Scotland to choose "independence" on the strength of a present surplus of oil without safeguarding the future would be folly.

The author is lecturer in geology at the University of Edinburgh.

Caroline Atkinson

Rising yen still leaves Japan unbalanced



By any standards the Japanese now have a "fundamental disequilibrium" in their balance of payments.

The current account, first forecast by the government to be in deficit of $700m (£385m) this financial year, recently revised to a surplus of $6,500m, is now commonly expected by outsiders (who have been extremely sceptical of the official forecasts throughout) to reach $14,000m. In the first six months of the year alone it totalled $5,585m.

Although capital movements have been liberalized, and interest rates cut, with a consequent step up in both long and short-term yen outflows, this has been nothing like enough to counteract the current surplus.

Medicine

However, Japan has this year been forced to take a very large dose of the traditional medicine for curing balance of payments disequilibria — a change in the exchange rate.

In the past six months the yen has appreciated by nearly 13 per cent against the United States dollar, and by scarcely less than this in effective terms. Since November last year the rise has been even larger at just under 20 per cent against the dollar and 21 per cent of the trade effective rate.

However, while Japanese businessmen are already beginning to worry seriously about the effect of this appreciation on their exports, Japan's western trading partners are calling for still more action to cut the surplus.

Mr Takeo Fukuda, the Prime Minister, is now urgently considering measures to boost imports directly. Those which have been announced so far have done little to placate the manufacturers in America and Europe who are most angry about the Japanese surplus (they are in the direct line of Japans export drive.

However, at an emergency Cabinet meeting over last weekend the Government is thought to have agreed to tariff cuts and increases in import quotas on a wide range of goods.

There are already many direct restrictions on exports under the proliferating "orderly market arrangements" which Japanese exporters often prefer to a dearer yen or open, unilaterally imposed, protection.

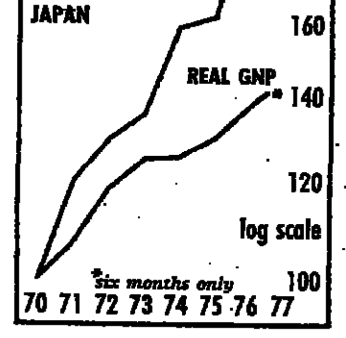
The success of this mixture of traditional economic and ad hoc measures to balance the balance of payments depends crucially on the adaptability of the Japanese economy.

The present unwillingness or inability to import foreign manufactures and—to a lesser extent—foodstuffs, springs from two essentials of Japan's economic structure.

There is a gulf between the less efficient more slowly growing domestic sector of the economy, which is virtually closed to foreign competition, and the dynamic export sector.

It is preserved through the dominance and power of the big industrial and agricultural interests, which enjoy captive home markets and are extremely good at penetrating the more open markets of the West.

Added to this the tight control exerted on the value of the yen, until this year, has kept it typically undervalued increasing Japanese export competitiveness. Thus foreign goods are rare luxuries for the Japanese consumer while Japanese expertise and efficient production is quickly available abroad.



Secondly, Japan's economy has developed through the manufacture and export of previously imported raw materials.

Last year oil and other mineral fuel imports accounted for 43 per cent of the total import bill. Other raw materials took a further 20 per cent, and food, drink and tobacco nearly 15 per cent.

Chemicals (which are usually imported semi-finished for industrial use) and other manufacturers accounted for 15 per cent while only 6 per cent of the $65,000m total was spent on machinery and transport equipment.

The pattern of exports is in stark contrast. Over half of Japan's overseas sales were finished manufactures of machinery and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other transport equipment. Chemicals and other manufacturers earned a further 43 per cent of the total, with miniscule contributions from food and raw material exports.

The sense of vulnerability which has come from this reliance on imported raw materials, and the need to sell skill and hard work overseas is had for a westerner to understand.

It was exacerbated by the oil price rise (which hit Japan much harder than any of the other developed oil consumers) and persists despite the huge payments surpluses now built up and the rapid accumulation of reserves, which now stand at $19,500m.

Exports growth

Nevertheless, Japan has been forced to recognize this year that it cannot continue to grow on the back o fexports, helped by an undervalued yen, while insulating the home market from imports. The yen is still being pushed up against the dollar—it closed at 245 yen last night—although most people agree that further rises will not do much to even out the balance of payments.

The firs teffect of a currency appreciation is to swell the current surplus: less of the domestic currency is needed to buy the same amount of imports and more foreign currency is earned from the sale of the same amount of exports, so the balance of payents improves.

This is the inverse of the "J" curve, better known to British readers, which comes with a devaluation.

The Japanese are now beginning to explain away the continued growth in their surplus on these grounds, and to argue that their western critics should be patient and give the appreciation time to work.

There is some evidence for this. While exports shot up by more than 18 per cent in dollar terms between the summer of 1976 and 1977, their yen value rose by only 8¼ per cent and their volume by 7.2 per cent. This looks less reasonable, however, when compared with a 1½ per cent fall in import volumes during the year.

It is obviously unreasonable (and economically makes no sense) for the western countries in deficit with Japan to insist on reaching balance, given Japan's need to buy raw materials from other countries.

However, the Japanese can now afford to buy more from everybody, and it is foolish for them to insist on salting away the earnings rather using them to achieve a better standard of living.

It is unfortunately conceivable that the main effect of a dearer yen will be to slow down growth and increase unemployment as first profits and then sales of exporting industries are squeezed.

The stranglehold of Japanese big business on the home market and the virtual impossibility for foreign manufacturers of getting through the inefficient distribution sector to the Japanese consumer make it extremely doubtful that Japan will significantly increase imports from the industrialized West.

Balanced payments at a lower level of activity will help international financial stability but will not provide more jobs or faster growth in the world.

The Government is additionally hamstrung in its attempts to boost domestic demand by the strict limits on its fiscal deficit—so that extra spending has to be financed by "deficit" bonds which must be approved in Parliament—and by the caution of Japanese consumers.

The savings ratio (the proportion of take home pay which is saved rather than spent) has risen from an already high 19 per cent average in the 1960s and early 1970s to around 25 per cent now. This limits the effect of any increases in income on spending and output.

One way to cut the balance of payments surplus and relieve further pressure on the yen, while not liberalizing the domestic market, is to encourage capital outflows. The sharp cut in discount rate this year, and a growing move to internationalize the yen, with yen-dominated bond issues, go some way in this direction.

Long-term capital outflows in August and September totalled nearly $1,000m. Spending abroad in direct investment by Japanese companies is also an alternative way of using up the foreign exchange earned through exports.

These measures are unlikely to be enough to close the payments gap. Japan is already looking over its shoulder at the fast growing manufacturing capacity of the South Koreans, and other less developed economies.

This year's rapid rise in the yen has brought much nearer *the need for Japan to adjust* from a low-wage, labour intensive economy to a high-wage consumer society. It is to be hoped that this will eventually include greater freedom for consumers to buy foreign goods.

Business Diary: The CBI goes 'Consensical'

...oss Davies, Business Diary's ...litor, is in Brighton for the ...st annual conference of the ...BI. Here is his report.

The conference got off to a ...aky start on Sunday after...on—the day before public ...siness began—when the presi...nt, Lord Watkinson, turned ... here to find that he couldn't ...t into his suite at the Metro...le Hotel.

In theory, he and other CBI ...p brass were supposed to ...rive at the hotel just as ...other big party, exhibitors ...d buyers attending an antique ...lls fair, were about to leave. In practice, however, the doll ...nciers, some of them ex...emely convivial souls, were ...ll sleeping off a Saturday ...ghts dolls tea party and in ...t some were still holding ...e by lunchtime on Sunday.

Lord Watkinson, former ...binet minister and chairman ... Cadbury-Schweppes, was ...derstandably not amused. ...e afternoon's pre-conference ...eting was already looking a ...le dicey as delegates began ...aggling in with British Rail ...rror stories of two and three ...ur crawls from Victoria to ...ighton railway stations. *Travel in your pyjamas* is the ...e of one BR brochure exhi...ed in the conference centre ...er here.

...n the event, however, all was ...ll and by the time Lord Wat...son appeared in public on ...nday afternoon he was even ...ting about the conference's ...tre's "looking like Lenin's ...nb".

Lord Watkinson's tribulations ...ntinued yesterday morning ...en the Metropole Hotel's ...om service began to crumble ...der the avalanche of calls from CBI delegates for breakfast in their rooms. The president had his an hour and a quarter late.

The mayor of Brighton, Councillor Mrs Hilary Somerville, in opening the conference said that as a traditionalist she preferred to be addressed as Mr Mayor. This, she explained, so mystified foreigners that at one overseas reception the Somervilles were introduced as "Mr Mayor and his charming husband".

■ Anybody at Brighton who may have covered the TUC and political party conferences earlier this year, has been asked: "What do you think of it so far?"

Every senior official from the president and the director general downwards to whom I have spoken has asked this question, and it is clear that it is prompted by anxiety rather than a desire to make small talk.

The leadership desperately wants to achieve two possibly incompatible things with this conference. One is to appear to the public as grave, wise and moderate (I suppose the word "consensus" being so much on everybody's lips here that Business Diary could be forgiven for minting a new grab all adjective "consensical").

The other is to give the CBI's backwoodsmen, led by Tom Lyon, chairman of Clam-Brummer, and of the confederation's small firms committee, to let off steam without making the confederation seem excitable, naive and extreme.

Asked by one senior official what I thought of the conference so far, I said it all depended whether a delegate got on his feet and demanded that the CBI press for the death penalty for strikers. He looked thoughtful and replied: "Mmm, well we have got some like that".

Lyon and his supporters have been effectively outmanoeuvred by the decision not to call for a debate on any of the 80 or so individual motions.

One of these from the smaller firms' council, calls on the CBI to pull out of the "numerous official organizations to which industry and commerce are asked to be a party".

But enlarging the CBI's right to have its say in the big bad world is what, so far as Lord Watkinson and the director-general John Methven, are concerned the conference is all about.

■ Every conference has to have its star these days, it seems, and there can be little doubt that yesterday's was Alf Gooding.

Whether he is exactly the sort of star the platform would have chosen is another matter. Gooding, a Caerphilly builder, and maker of building products, described with more heat than light how he couldn't make ends meet on an annual salary of £30,000—a declaration that probably wrung fewer hearts outside the conference centre than within.

Gooding, who is 45, said that at the tax rates he paid (83 per cent maximum on his salary, 98 per cent on dividends) he had to make £15 to be able to buy a pint and £250 for a hairdo for Mrs Gooding.

Lastly, stepping back from the lectern in a classic piece of Welsh pulpit-craft, he pointed

Photograph by John Manning

Alf Gooding and the £10,000 suit in Brighton yesterday.

to the clothes he was wearing and said that they had cost him "ten thousand pounds".

■ One thing that is not likely to happen here is the long rumoured change of name from the Confederation of British Industry to that of the Confederation of British Business.

There are, it is true, enough new non-industrial members from the chain store and insurance businesses to warrant such a move. Lord Watkinson told me, however, that although such a change was on the cards, it would not be made this week, and probably not for some time after that.

The main stumbling block seems to be relations with Tom Boardman's Association of British Chambers of Commerce. Many ABCC member chambers are affiliated to the CBI—the Westminster Chamber of Commerce, for example, has a number of motions down this week—but the association itself remains outside, and frowns upon any renaming of the CBI which might be seen as stealing the association's clothes.

Lord Watkinson told me that "desultory" talks had been going on between the two organizations for some time, but added that he didn't see any quick results.

■ One unexpected face in Brighton this week is that of Reg Prentice, sometime Labour—and for the present at least—Conservative MP for Newham NE.

Prentice showed up at neither the Labour nor the Tory Party conferences this year, and is in Brighton not as a member of the Tory whip's contingent, but as a delegate from a corporate member.

This is STC, Standard Telephone and Cables as was, for whom Prentice has been working as a consultant on "social policy" since last June. STC, part of the American conglomerate ITT, has been shedding workers in this country partly as a response to the world depression and partly because of cutbacks in Post Office contracts.

Prentice has blossomed out as a political commentator for the right-wing fortnightly *Time & Tide*, having written in the present issue about the plight of the small firm, he will be assessing the CBI conference in the next edition.

More from Brighton tomorrow.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Concentric's growth plan spoiled by motor industry strife: trading this year good but rough

By Alison Mitchell

The industrial troubles of the strike torn motor industry worry engineering group and components manufacturer Concentric.

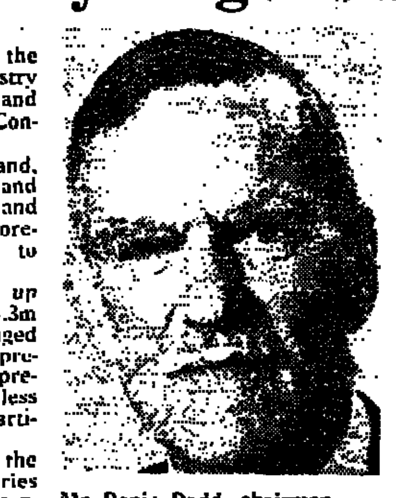
Disputes at British Leyland, Massey Ferguson, Ford and Lucas all took their toll and left the group short of the forecast £2.5m for the year to October 1.

However, on turnover up almost 33 per cent from £24.3m to £31.5m the group managed an 11 per cent increase in pretax profits to £2.45m. So pretax margins tightened to less than 8 per cent from an artificially-high 9 per cent.

Despite the flatness of the British economy all subsidiaries managed to increase their contribution, according to managing director Mr John Perks.

Recently acquired Evered Controls, which broke even in the first half year, made a profit of £75,000 for the year as a whole, in line with board *expectations, and this company* should assist growth over the next few years.

Direct exports rose by around £1m to £3.5m but taking in products sent overseas through export houses and agents they were more than £4m.



Mr Denis Dodd, chairman.

The bulk of Concentric's *overseas sales are in EEC and* European markets but the Midland conglomerate is now concentrating on expanding its foothold in South America. The ratio of exports to United Kingdom sales is unlikely to change much in the future although the group will continue to develop *overseas markets.*

Capital spending last year amounted to just under £1m. A similar amount is to be set aside this year to replace and extend plant. Mr Perks says that the group is to review its existing assets with a view to spending around £2m and bring the factories up to the level of technology needed for the 1980s.

The going since October 1 has been "good but rough" and Mr Perks warns shareholders that Concentric is going to have to run hard to stand still. Though making no specific forecast he predicts that the group should finish the year with profits at least as good as those of the past 12 months.

But strikes and industrial stoppages are again likely to influence the outcome. The disputes at BOC and in the elec*tricity industry have had some* effect while the threat of a miners' strike puts a cloud on the horizon.

Stock markets

Engineers join firemen in dousing shares

There was no repeat of last *week's performance* at the start of the new account as equities fell back on industrial worries and trade figures which were rather below best hopes.

Initially weak on the implications of the firemen's strike, *prices made a partial recovery* in mid-session in front of the trade news. But when this failed to please drifted off again and the *FT* Index, 4.2 lower at 3 pm, closed a further half a point lower at 496.7, a net loss of 4.7.

Dealers said the prospect of a guideline breaking pay claim from the engineers and further evidence of stagnant industrial production did nothing to lift the general sentiment though

Rumours of a bid for Eva Industries are growing. The group recently took over Robert Stockfis, part of the Central and Sherwood stable, but Eva's 20 per cent stakeholders, Anglo Indonesian Plantations were not in favour of the bid. Could Anglo be wishing to take full control or does it wish to sell on? At 91p Eva's shares are near the high for the year.

they emphasized that there was little real selling pressure.

There was also some disappointment at the trade figures in the Government bond market where short dates ended about one eighth off and longer maturities shed up to one quarter.

The massive £75m rights issue from Commercial Union took the insurance sector by surprise and cast a shadow over the sector. The shares themselves closed 14p lower at 140p with Royal, due to report today, 30p off at 395p. Others to come under pressure were Sun Alliance, down 33p to 578p, Gen*eral Accident 12p to 240p,* Pearl 8p to 258p and Guardian Royal Exchange 12p to 250p.

In electricals comment on figures due soon clipped 7p to 258p from GEC. But news of an approach lifted Cohen Brothers 7p to 45p while comment lifted Electrocomponents, another speculative counter, 20p to 340p. Elsewhere in the sector consumer considerations were good for rises of 4p to 142p for Henry Wigfall and of 2p to 154p for Comet Radio.

In oils BP reacted from its recent gains which have stemmed from a strong United States demand. The shares dipped 4p to 910p, but Shell managed a rise of 3p to 576p and Berry Wiggins still drew strength from its rig deal firming another 4p to 43p in spite of a two-way trade.

News of cider price rises lifted H. P. Bulmer 2p to 137p but the sale of certain interests to the Imperial Group lowered *Associated Fisheries a penny to* 52p. Mowlem gave up some of its recent gains, losing 6p to 130p, while Trafford Carpets slumped 10p to 35p waiting for further takeover news.

Still reflecting last week's lower profits slump and dividend setback Staflex was the most active counter of the session losing no less than 7p for a close of 12p.

But the speculative Flight Refuelling sprang to life again closing at 118p while favourable comment was good for gains in Thos Jourdan 8p to 40p, Inveresk 5p to 82p and York Trailer 2p to 71p. For the reverse reason English China Clays slipped 3p to 88p.

News of steel cutbacks *clipped 3p to 11p from Babcock* & Wilcox while GKN also came under pressure closing 12p down to 276p. In front of figures George Bassett rose 6p to 147p but elsewhere in foods Wheatsheaf dipped 2p to 218p, also ahead of a statement.

The clearing banks spent the day in retreat with losses of 5p from Barclays at 340p and Lloyds and National Westminster both at 280p. In properties recovery hopes and asset values continued to spark life into Imry which featured in an otherwise dull sector with a gain which stretched to 29p to 307p at one stage.

In spite of a bullish broker's comment it was reported that up to 400,000 British Home Stores shares went through the market at 215.25p. The seller was said to be an institution lightening its portfolio and the shares closed 3½p lower at 222p.

Doubled profits lifted David Dixon 4p to 60p while another to benefit from a statement was Yarrow which ended 6p to the good at 246p. Concentric firmed a penny to 42p, but Woolworth held steady at 62½p in front of figures due later this week.

Lethargic conditions persisted after hours with both leading equities and gilts continuing to show little response. Equity turnover on November 11 was £112.38m. (19,667 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were Staflex, ICI, BAT Dfd, Commercial Union, Shell, Reed International, Inveresk, GKN, De La Rue, BP ordinary, Unilever, Vickers, Berry Wiggins, Midland, Lloyds, Electrocomponents, and Royal Insurance.

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Bishopsgte Plat (I)	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)	2b(2b)	—	—(7.1)
Brycourt Inv (F)	—(—)	0.34(0.22)	3.1(1.9)	2.1(1.8)	16/12	2.1(1.5)
Carlton Inds (I)	44.2(36.2)	4.4(3.2)	11.2(8.1)	2(1.5)	9/1	—(4.9)
Clydesdale Inv (F)	—(—)	1.6(1.4)	1.67(1.43)	1.17(0.95)	—	1.67(1.45)
Comben Gp (I)	10.7(8.2)	0.64(0.60)	—(—)	0.5(0.45)	9/1	—(1.4)
Comm Union (I)	—(—)	65.7(28.0)	12.47(5.33)	2.56(2.52)	17/11	7.6a(6.8)
Concentric (F)	31.5(21.2)	2.4(2.2)	11.73(8.18)	1.5(0.85)	—	2.3(2.1)
J Dawson (I)	1.9(1.4)	0.41(0.29)	—(—)	1.75(1.25)	9/1	—(4.0)
D Dixon (I)	4.4(4.0)	0.20(0.09)	6.4(2.0)	1.0(0.97)	3/2	—(2.3)
Eng & O'seas I (I)	2.3(1.7)	0.14(0.02)	1.36(0.25)	0.35(Nil)	—	—(Nil)
Imp Platinum (Q)	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)	20b(20b)	—	—(70b)
Invergordon D (I)	6.9(4.5)	1.2(0.79)	—(—)	0.67(0.6)	9/1	—(2.0)
Prop Part (I)	—(—)	0.15(0.09)	—(—)	0.80(0.75)	13/1	—(1.5)
Rothschild Inv (I)	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)	1.5(2.7)	23/12	—(11.0)
Scot Ontario (I)	—(—)	0.50(0.42)	2.14(1.78)	1.25(1.0)	12/12	4.0(3.5)
Secomb Mrshll (I)	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)	5.0(4.7)	3/1	—(11.9)
Yarrow (F)	6.8(5.1)	1.8(1.3)	37.5(43.4)	3.1(2.7)	—	4.6(4.1)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a Forecast. b Cents.

Recovery at Yarrow and dividend up

By Victor Felstead

Now shorn of its shipbuilding side, nationalized on July 1, Glasgow-based Yarrow reports a turnround to profits at the trading level and a bigger dividend.

The market was pleased with the results and the shares finished 6p up at 246p. On a turnover 31.9 per cent ahead at *£6.81m, Yarrow made trading* profits of £369,000, against losses of £547,000 last time, in the year to June 30.

Both investment income and the profit on sales of investments were higher and the group took a dividend from Yarrow (Shipbuilders) of £750,000, compared with £1.35m. This makes a pre-tax profit of *£1.8m against £1.34m. The tax* charge was £310,000, against a credit of £385,000 for the previous year.

Earnings per share dipped slightly, from 43.4p to 37.5p, but the total gross dividend still rises from 6.35p to 6.98p, the maximum.

Yarrow (Shipbuilders) and Yarrow (Training) were nation*alized on July 1. Both were* fully owned throughout the year, but the board has decided it would be misleading to consolidate them in the group accounts. All comparative figures have been restated as appropriate.

The audited accounts of Yarrow (Shipbuilders) will be reproduced in full as a note on the group accounts, with a summary of the relevant figures of Yarrow (Training).

Preparation of the group's *valuation and claim for com*pensation is well advanced, reports Sir Eric Yarrow, chairman.

He tells shareholders that he does not think he is overstating the case by saying that in a normal "willing buyer, willing seller" transaction, which is not the compensation basis provided in the nationalization Act, more than £20m would be a reasonable price to expect for a company with outstanding recent profits, a full order book *worth over £200m, an impressive* future cash flow and favourable prospects.

Japanese securities set record

Three major securities com*panies in Japan have announced* record net profits for the year ended September 30 boosted by strong increases in commis*sions from securities sales* as stock market activity was high.

Nomura Securities Company, the largest in Japan, said that net profit rose by 43.1 per cent to a record 35,100m yen (about £78m) from 24,500m yen a year earlier. Turnover was up 16.3 per cent to a record 185,600m

International

Nikko Securities Company said that its net profit for the same period rose 41 per cent to a record 24,200m yen. Sales totalled a record 125,500m yen, up 18 per cent

Yamaichi Securities Com*pany said its net profit in the* year jumped by 110.6 per cent to a record 12,400m yen from 5,900m yen. Revenues rose by 29.6 per cent to a record 95,000m yen from 73,300m yen.

Générale Occidentale

Générale Occidentale, the French master company of Sir James Goldsmith has *shown* portfolio revenues and other income of 20.5m francs (about £2.36m) in first quarter of the year ending June 30.

Deutsche Shell drop

Third quarter earnings of Deutsche Shell averaged DM20.35 per ton of oil below *those of the similar period last* year, indicating a probable overall loss for 1977, the group says. No total figures for third quarter earnings were given. Losses in the third quarter were DM18.63 per ton of oil. In the first three quarters, losses amounted to DM18.23 per ton.

First payment in years from Eng & Overseas

By Michael Clark

English & Overseas Investments, in publishing, fine art and containers for carrying cement and so on, is to pay its first dividend in four years.

In the six months to September 30, English & Overseas, the former John Bloom company, has recorded pre-tax profits of £147,000 compared with £26,000. Turnover rose from £1.7m to £2.3m and earnings a share were 1.36p against 0.25p. The *directors have therefore recom*mended an interim dividend of 0.53p gross.

The group now seems poised for strong organic growth. Both the publishing and dry bulking interests are in the midst of expansion programmes at home and abroad and the forecasts made by Mr Colin Jeffries, chairman, are increasingly being *realized. There is every indi*cation that the recovery in profitability will be maintained.

Last year E & O returned to the black with pre-tax profits of £184,000 against a loss of £155,000.

In spite of tough trading the business of the group has continued to expand during the first six months.

The two main trading companies Athena International and Metalair have continued to prosper and show every indication of maintaining their upward trend.

Athena International, Brit*ain's largest fine art publisher,* has increased its turnover by 35 per cent on the same period last year, recording total sales of £1.3m including its European subsidiaries. The seasonal aspect of the publishing industry is now showing strongly and the second half figures should show a significant improvement

The group's other trading sub*sidiary Metalair is the largest* maker of dry bulking equipment in the country and has consolidated the dramatic improvement shown last year.

Scottish & Continental

The Murray Johnstone managed Scottish and Continental Investment Company had a mixed year to August 31. On the one hand it doubled the dividend; on the other it saw assets a share drop from 69.3p to 67.8p.

The trust invests largely in Europe and North America and during the year under review the best plan was to have had only Japanese stocks. Stock market indices in Japan rose 15 per cent.

Germany managed a 4.2 per cent gain but down went Holland (by nearly 6 per cent, the United States, by 6 per cent, *and France by as much as* 15 per cent). The fall in the investment currency premium of 12 per cent was no help either.

During the year the group whittled down the number of companies wherein it invests from 77 to 61, disposed of small stakes in Switzerland, Denmark and Spain, and hoisted the percentage holding in the United States, *from 13.42 per cent to* 21.19 per cent.

Mr J. A. Lumsden, chairman, and his colleagues expect inflation to slow down more, and the world economy to escape recession. They plan to raise the stake in the United States, deemed to be "particularly attractive", reduce the portfolio in Europe, and quite *possibly take a stake (modest)* in the United Kingdom which the trust does not now have.

Mr Jessel's failure at M James

Coventry-based Maurice James Industries, now making a 25p-a-share cash offer for George Doland, has completed the takeover of Caspar Jack. This is a clothing import business privately owned by Mr Ian Gravener, a joint managing director of Doland.

The price was £100,000, with a further £100,000 based on profit performance. Caspar is expected to contribute "sub*stantially*" to James's profits.

Mr Gravener has supported the James' bid for Doland, together with all the Doland directors, except for Mr Oliver Jessel—who yesterday failed in his attempt to obtain a High Court injunction to halt the sale of Caspar to James.

James' offer for Doland is open until November 25. To *date, it has attracted the sup*port of 44.5 per cent of the Doland shareholdings.

In the High Court, Mr Justice *Browne-Wilkinson said he would* have granted a temporary injunction to stop the takeover, but for Mr Jessel's unwillingness to give a cross-undertaking in damages.

The undertaking sought would have covered not only Maurice James, but also Caspar Jack and its controlling shareholder, Mr Gravener.

Yesterday's application arose out of the boardroom disagreement at Doland, which is a menswear group. Since early August, said Mr Heslop, Doland had been trying to acquire Caspar, which imports men's suits from Poland. Doland's directors include Mr Jessel, Mr Leonard Maurice James and Mr Gravener.

Mr Jessel alleged that Mr James was in breach of his fiduciary duty as a Doland director in going behind the *board's back to arrange a deal* between his own company and Caspar.

Invergordon Dist tops up results at Carlton Ind and more to come

By Our Financial Staff

Carlton Industries, an offshoot of London Merchant Securities, has turned in pre-tax profits of £4.4m for the six months to September 30 last against £3.2m. Turnover rose by just over a fifth from £36.2m to £44.2m.

All three major divisions went ahead Mr Leon Roydon, chairman, reports that order books are now substantially higher than at the beginning of *the period.*

This confidence was underlined in the market where shares rose 2p to 154p.

The half-time dividend has been hoisted by a third to 3p gross and the directors promise a similar increase at the end of the year if legislation permits. This would give a total of 9.8p for the 12 months.

The largest increase in the six months came in the whisky division with Invergordon Distillers reporting profits of £1.2m against £800,000 last time. Sales rose by a half to £6.9m and this increase is likely to be maintained.

This would give the company bumper profits of around £3.5m.

Much of *the production* at the largest distillery, in Invergordon, is sold for blending purposes and the increase in stocks *being laid down has produced a* volume upturn of around 30 per cent at the Carlton subsidiary.

Bottled whisky sales in the *United Kingdom* have not been too buoyant, but export sales are increasing by around 10 per cent a year.

However, Invergordon's company secretary Mr K. Findell fears that there may be a hiccup in supply in the next year to 18 months. Cash flow problems among the blenders, resulting in a past decrease in stocks being laid down, could mean a temporary shortage.

Carlton's other two main divisions, housebuilding and lead acid batteries, also raised their profits.

Estate developer and house builder Comben Group showed a slight rise from £600,000 to £641,000. But signs of an up*turn in the market should see* the company finishing the year ahead of last time's £1.26m. The redemption of some of the company's loan stock will reduce borrowings by £1.8m.

The lead acid batteries side, which includes Oldham & Son and Tungstone Batteries, hoisted pre-tax profits from £2.25 to £3.15m.

Business appointments

Changes at the top for Bridon Group

Mr A. S. Watts is to become chairman of Bridon International on January 1. Mr J. R. K. Buckley and Mr G. Halstead will become joint managing directors. Because *of ill-health,* Mr W. Hutchinson will retire from his positions with Bridon Wire and its associated companies, on December 31. He *will remain a director of Bridon* Limited until March 31. Mr J. W. Naylor will be managing director of Bridon Wire from January 1 *in addition* to his present responsibilities. Mr R. Elkington will take an early retirement; he will leave his present posts with Bridon Wire and associated companies on December 31 and retire from the board of Bridon Limited on March 31. Mr R. J. Simpson *will retire from the Bridon* Limited board on December 31.

Mr Paul Lewis is finance director-designate of Bestobell from January 1. *He will succeed* Mr John Taylor when he retires in May. Mr Lewis joins Bestobell from British Leyland where he *has been finance director of Ley*land International.

Mr B. H. Kent is to join the board of Staveley Industries in the *spring* as an executive *director.* He has been managing director of Alfa-Laval Company.

A new subsidiary of Imperial *Foods is to be formed responsible* for the interests of Ross Poultry and Nitrovit. This company, Ross Buxted Nitrovit, will be the hold*ing company for five autonomous* trading companies. The board of the new company will be: Mr W. S. F. Wiley, chairman & managing director; Lord Edward FitzRoy, director; Mr R. Pooley, managing director, Buxted Poultry; Mr P. B. Furness, managing director, Nitrovit; Mr M. J. Rush, managing director, Ross Poultry Great Britain; Mr R. W. McCammond, managing director, Ross Poultry, *Ireland;* Mr J. D. H. Archibald, managing director, Ross Breeders; Mr G. H. Edmunds, director, accounts con*solidation, and company secre*tary; Mr N. W. Simpson, personnel director; Mr T. J. S. Flynn, Mr J. W. Salisbury, Mr A. L. P. *Smith and Mr D. W. Garland,* directors.

Mr H. B. Pirie, chairman and chief executive of Scott and Robertson, is to retire on July 7. Mr J. R. Scott, vice-chairman, is the designated chairman and Mr K. S. Huskinson, chairman and managing director of Tay Textiles, is the designated chief executive. He will continue as chairman of Tay Textiles and Mr I. C. Tolland is appointed managing director from March 1. Mr Pirie has been appointed chairman of Thomas Boag in succession to Mr J. K. Boag and will be succeeded by Mr Huskinson not later than March 1. Mr J. R. Henderson continues as managing director.

Following the resignation of Mr M. Bennett, Mr W. Le R. Ogier is to be appointed managing director of Britannia Life Association (CI).

Professor Geoffrey Allen and Dr Joseph Gibson are to be members of the Advisory Council on Research and Development for Fuel and Power.

Mr Simon Pratt has become a director of Canny Bowen & Associates.

هكذا من الاصل

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Appointment of Receiver to Royco subsidiary

Queen Street Trust, the banking offshoot of Royco Group, has appointed Mr Martin Spencer of Stoy Hayward and Co. as receiver and manager of Marlaheath Plastics, another Royco subsidiary.

This follows a request from Marlaheath's board. The company has been losing money and meeting further trading difficulties. Marlaheath makes plastic sheet and profile products. Its share capital of 20,000 ordinary shares is owned by a Royco subsidiary.

At October 31, Marlaheath's gross assets were about £1.25m. Sums due to Marlaheath's clearing bankers and Queen Street Trust, secured by charges on the company's assets, are about £400,000 and £660,000 respectively.

At this stage, a statement said, it is not possible to give an assessment of the net amount that will be realized from Marlaheath's assets.

Talks start at Cohen Bros

The shares in Manchester-based Cohen Bros (Electrical) jumped by 9p to 49p yesterday valuing the company at £2m The news was that a takeover bid could be on the way. An approach has been made to certain major shareholders which may lead to a general offer to all shareholders, the board reported.

The talks are at an early stage and shareholders must not assume that an offer will be made. Because the chairman, Mr I. Cohen is abroad, no more talks will take place until his return at the end of this month. Cohen Bros makes lamp posts and specializies in maintaining street lights.

Pearson Longman buys US group

Pearson Longman plans to buy Wadsworth Publishing of Belmont, California. A letter of intent has been signed by both parties and Pearson Longman, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Longman group, will buy Wadsworth for $25 a share at a total price of £13½m.

Wadsworth is one of the most distinguished publishers of college text books in the United States. The acquisition of Wadsworth "represents a significant entry" for Longman into the United States market.

SWAN RYAN-PEMBROKE

Cash offer for Swan from Pembroke Inv has lapsed. Pembroke had 41.6 per cent before making offer.

Recent Issues

	Closing Price
Agric Mort Var Rate 1982 (£100)	[illegible]
Asarco Inc	£11¼
Brit Land 15¼ 1st Db 1987 (£100)	£106
Do 12½ Cnv Ln 2002 (£900)	£113½
HP RLA's (845g)	380-2
Exchequer 10½% 1997 (£98d)	£30¼
Islington 12¾% 1983-84 (£99½d)	£54¼
Do 12¾% 1986-87 (£99d)	[illegible]
Sin Crofts 10p Ord (60p)	71+1
Southwark 11¾% Rd 1984-85 (£99½d)	£50½

RIGHTS ISSUES	Latest date of renun	
Allied Irish Bank (114)	..	19 prem
Assoc TV 'A' (90)	Dec 16	12 prem
Barratt Dev (83)	..	20 prem
Cons Gold Fields (155)	Mar 1	17 prem-4
Coral Leisure (200)	Dec 13	55 prem-1
De La Rue (520)	Jan 13	48 prem
F Mid A Press (50)	..	10 prem
Kwik Save Disc (210)	Jan 6	23 prem
Newman Ind (47)	Dec 30	21 prem

Issue price in parentheses * Ex dividend. † Issued by tender. ‡ Nil paid a £10 paid. b £30 paid. c £15 paid. d £50 paid e £25 paid. f Fully paid. g £3 paid. h £55 paid. i £45 paid.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	6%
Barclays Bank	6%
Consolidated Credits	6%
First London Secs	6%
C. Hoare & Co	*6%
Lloyds Bank	6%
Lon Mercantile Corp	6%
Midland Bank	6%
Nat Westminster	6%
Rossminster Acc's	6%
Shenley Trust	8%
TSB	6%
Williams and Glyn's	6%

* 7 day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under 3%, up to £25,000, 3½%, over £25,000, 4%.

Commodities

COPPER: [illegible] ... carries). All afternoon prices are unofficial.

PLATINUM was at £94.30 ($171.26) a troy ounce.

RUBBER was uncertain (pence per kilo).—Dec, 52.05-52.40; Jan, 52.45-53.50; Jan-March, 53.90-52.95; April-June, 53.95-54.00; July-Sept, 55.70-55.80; Oct-Dec, 57.35-57.50; Jan-March, 58.95-59.20; April-June, 60.55-60.90; July-Sept, 62.30-62.35. Sales: 44 lots at 5 tonnes; 179 at 15 tonnes.

RUBBER PHYSICALS were steadier.—Spot, 51.75-52.75. Cifs. Dec, 50.90-51.15; Jan, 51.25-51.50.

[illegible] ... price 56.80p (+0.04). Sheep numbers up 3.8 per cent, average price 132.0p (+2.1). Pig numbers down 4.3 per cent, average price 59.1p (—0.4).

Prices Nov 14.—GB: Cattle 55.74p per KGLW (—0.46). UK: Sheep 124.4p per KG EST DCW (—0.7). GB: Pigs 59.7p per KGLW (—0.1). England and Wales: Cattle numbers down 0.1 per cent, average price 55.67p (—0.40). Sheep numbers up 1.6 per cent, average price 126.6p (—0.3). Pig numbers up 7.8 per cent, average price 59.7p (—.1). Scotland: Cattle numbers up 6.6 per cent, average price 56.17p (—0.93). Sheep numbers up 74.1 per cent, average price 132.2p (—2.5). Pig numbers up 63.0 per cent, average price 57.5p (—2.0)

UK metal stocks

Stocks in London Metal Exchange official warehouses at the end of last week (all in tonnes except silver) were: copper up 1,125 to 633,275; tin up 5 to 3,325; lead down 200 to 62,300; zinc down 225 to 62,850; silver up 50,000 troy ounces to 19,460,000.

Wall Street

New York, Nov 14.—Stocks were mostly lower amid heavy profit-taking in the blue chips.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was off 7.53 points to 838.36. It shot up a total of 27.46 points in the two prior sessions.

Volume shares totalled 23,220,000 compared with 35,260,000 shares on Friday.

U S gold lower

New York, Nov 14.—GOLD futures closed sharply lower in active trading. Comex prices fell $4.30 to $5.30 with November off $4.60 at $163.60. On the IMM, the December contract closed at $164.50-$164.20, off $4.40-$4.70, while other months declined as much as $6.10. NY COMEX.—Nov, $163.60; Dec, $164.60; Jan, $165.20; Feb, $166.20; April, $168.30; June, $170.50; Aug, $172.70; Oct, $174.90; Dec, $177.10; Feb, $179.40; April, $181.70; June, $184.00; Aug, $186.40. CHICAGO IMM.—Dec, $164.60-$164.20; March, $166.50-$166.80; June, $169.50-$169.90; Sept, $173.30-$173.40 bid; Dec, $177.30; [illegible]

[illegible] ... 19.35-50c; Oct 19.10-30c; Dec 19.10c. SOYABEAN MEAL: Dec $167.5-168.0; Jan $168.5-169.0; March $171.0-171.50; May $173.0-50; July $175.0-175.50; Aug $176.0-176.50; Sept $173.0-3.5; Oct $174.0; Dec $174.5. CHICAGO GRAINS.—WHEAT: Dec, 272¾-¼c; March, 281½-¾c; May, 286½c; July, 289½-89c; Sept, 295c; Dec, 303c. MAIZE: Dec, 219½-20c; March, 226¾-27c; May, 230¾-½c; July, 232½-¾c; Sept, 231c; Dec, 231-31½c. OATS: Dec, 137-38c; March, 141c; May, 132c; July, 142c; Sept, 138¾c nominal.

[illegible]

Foreign Exchange

Firm for much of the session, the pound reached a day's "high" of $1.8220 before reacting to close unchanged at $1.8160, reflecting some profit-taking after the trade surplus and the continued sluggish industrial production. In the currency basket, sterling eased to 63.7 (63.8 on Friday). Although an adverse factor, the firemen's strike made no impact as it does not disrupt industry and dealers thought it will be of short duration. Turnover was on the low side.

The dollar was on a downward tack throughout, particularly during the afternoon from selling sparked off by a Japanese Research Institute forecast of an even stronger yen if Japan does not reflate. It came off the bottom after some central banks' support.

Gold lost $1.25 an ounce to close in London at $165.375.

Discount market

The Bank of England had to give help on an extremely large scale to the discount houses yesterday by way of loans and bill purchases. The authorities eventually bought a very large amount of Treasury bills and a small amount of local authority bills. These purchases were augmented by overnight MLR loans on a small scale to four or five houses.

Houses were forced to bid up to 4½ per cent as they strove to make some progress during the morning. Notwithstanding the Bank assistance, the close was none too easy, and rates that had flickered down to 3¼ per cent were firming again in the final minutes. Books were eventually ruled off anywhere within the band of 3¼ per cent to 4⅝ per cent.

Spot Position of Sterling

[illegible]

Forward Levels

[illegible]

Gold

[illegible]

Money Market Rates

[illegible]

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) / Trades (Dis%)

[illegible]

Local Authority Bonds

[illegible]

Secondary Mkt. ECD Rates (%)

[illegible]

Local Authority Market (%)

[illegible]

Interbank Market (%)

[illegible]

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate %)

[illegible]

Finance House Base Rate 6½

LEADENHALL-STERLING

Board has acquired Charles Frank an optical and scientific equipment group for £150,000 in cash.

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

[illegible]

1976-77 High	Low	Company	Last Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div (p)	Yld %	P/E
43	27	Airsprung Ord	43	—	4.2	9.8	8.0
149	100	Airsprung 18½% CULS	149	—	18.4	12.4	—
39	25	Armitage & Rhodes	38	—	3.3	8.7	16.2
142	105	Bardon Hill	139	—	12.0	8.6	9.5
96	48	Deborah Ord	96xc	—	5.1	5.3	7.7
197	104	Deborah 17½% CULS	192	—	17.5	9.1	—
144	120	Frederick Parker	142	+1	11.5	8.0	6.8
118	45	Henry Sykes	104	—	2.4	2.3	10.0
58	36	Jackson Group	53	—	5.0	9.4	6.2
114	53	James Burrough	113	—	6.0	5.3	10.3
340	188	Robert Jenkins	335	—	27.0	8.0	5.7
24	8	Twinlock Ord	14	—	—	—	—
77	57	Twinlock 12% ULS	72	—	12.0	16.6	—
65	51	Unilock Holdings	63	—	7.0	11.1	7.8
86	65	Walter Alexander	86	—	6.4	7.4	6.3

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

[illegible]

Stock Exchange Prices

Insurances retreat

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 14. Dealings End, Nov 25. § Contango Day, Nov 28. Settlement Day, Dec 6

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS

1976/77 High	Low	Stock			Price	Ch'ge	Int. only Yield	Gross Red. Yield
100	92¾	Trans	4%	1972-77	100	•..	3.999	3.880
101	93⅜	Treas	9%	1978	101	..	8.872	4.369
104	93⅞	Treas	10½%	1978	103½	..	10.145	4.980
100	89	Exch	5%	1976-78	99	..	5.003	5.060
97	82¼	Treas	3%	1979	96	+¼	3.121	5.239
107	92	Treas	11½%	1979	105	+	10.968	6.606
98	83	Elec	4¼%	1974-79	97	..	4.353	5.607
106	88	Treas	10½%	1979	105	..	9.978	7.562
97	82	Elec	3½%	1976-79	97	+¼	3.610	5.999
106	84½	Treas Cnv	9%	1980	103	-¼	8.660	7.118
105	84½	Treas	9½%	1980	104	..	9.133	7.722
98	79	Fund	5¼%	1978-80	97½	•-¼	5.383	8.160
96	78	Treas	3½%	1977-80	95	•.	3.684	5.614
112	96	Exch	13%	1980	111½	•-¼	11.672	8.649
108	89	Treas	11½%	1981	105	-¼	10.903	9.458
94	76	Treas	3½%	1979-81	92	-¼	3.801	6.249
104	82½	Treas	9½%	1981	103	-¼	9.454	8.880
110	97	Exch	9¼%	1981	102	-¼	9.302	8.909
113	90	Exch	12¾%	1981	112	•-¼	11.321	8.942
93	82	Exch	3%	1981	92	..	3.227	5.059
100	79	Treas	8½%	1980-82	99	-¼	8.584	8.702
98	95	Treas	8¼%	1982	97	-¼	8.466	8.987
91	69	Treas	3%	1982	89	..	3.389	6.109
119	98	Treas	14%	1982	117	..	11.903	9.000
103	93	Exch	9¼%	1982	101½	..	9.113	8.857
87	83	Exch	3%	1983	85	+¼	3.529	6.471
113	88	Treas	12%	1983	113	+¼	10.909	9.334
101	96	Treas	9½%	1983	101	-¼	9.258	9.290
95	62	Fund	5½%	1982-84	93	-¼	6.085	7.463
99	74	Treas	8½%	1984-86	93	-¼	9.829	9.125
87	60	Fund	6½%	1985-87	85	-¼	7.602	8.706

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES

The Times Share Indices for 14.11.77 (base date June 2, 1964 original base date June 2, 1950):—

	Index No. Latest	Div Yield %	Earnings Yield %	Index No. Previous
The Times Industrial Share Index	208.33	6.27	11.43	208.67
Largest Coys.	213.00	6.01	10.78	212.95
Smaller Coys.	194.27	7.08	13.53	195.91
Capital Goods	232.95	6.73	13.13	236.42
Consumer Goods	220.98	6.36	11.78	221.32
Store Shares	189.17	5.39	7.45	190.19
Largest financial shares	226.82	5.44	—	232.36
Largest financial and industrial shares	215.59	5.90	—	217.49
Commodity shares	208.31	5.68	11.68	208.84
[illegible]	408.12	10.92	18.47	414.92
Industrial debenture stocks	45.54	6.22*	—	[illegible]
Industrial [illegible]	42.43	[illegible]	—	[illegible]
3½% War Loan	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	[illegible]

A record of The Times Industrial Share Indices is given below:—

	High	Low
All-time	222.98 (14.09.77)	60.18 (12.12.74)
1977	222.98 (14.09.77)	161.29 (12.01.77)
1976	171.85 (05.05.76)	115.03 (27.10.76)
1975	156.92 (19.11.75)	61.42 (06.01.75)
1974	138.38 (28.02.74)	60.18 (12.12.74)
1973	189.38 (15.01.73)	120.99 (14.12.73)
1972	198.47 (15.08.72)	174.48 (10.01.72)

* Flat interest yield.

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71, New Bond Street, London W.1
01-493 6456
adpower randstad
Staff Consultants

AD-VANCE TO £3,400

In the fastest, most creative advertising agency in town. You'll be in a really hectic account group, working alongside three account seniors. Their work involves more administration than secretarial so you'll need to be a clear thinking, unflappable type.

It's a goody—so ring
Adrienne Simpson
on 493 6456 now

71, New Bond Street, London W.1
01-493 6456
adpower randstad
Staff Consultants

£2.30 P.H. to Temporary Secretaries who enjoy senior level assignments in the City and West End (speeds 100/60). Crone Corkill (Consultants), 628 4835.

Stepping Stones

ADVERTISING £3,400

If you're a very confident Sec./P.A. with really good shorthand you'll enjoy working for the senior account director of London's top ad. agency. He handles the blue chip business so you'll be involved in lots of administration and in close contact with top level clients. It's fast—but fun.

Please phone
Adrienne Simpson

71, New Bond Street, London W.1
01-493 6456
adpower randstad
Staff Consultants

RECEPTIONIST

If you enjoy a hectic but happy life, are tactful and diplomatic when dealing with people and can always keep a smile on your face, you are probably just the person we are looking for to run our busy reception area. We offer the possibility of progression within our organisation.

Please telephone Judie Nyberg, 734 7916, Drake Personnel (Agency), 225 Regent St., W.1.

NON-SECRETARIAL

The University of Manchester
RYLANDS CHAIR OF BIBLICAL CRITICISM AND EXEGESIS

Applications are invited for the above Chair, which will fall vacant in October 1978, on the retirement of Professor F. F. Bruce. Candidates should have interests that span the fields of Biblical Study and possess special expertise in the New Testament. Salary within the range for Professors. Superannuable. Applications (one copy suitable for photocopying) giving full details and qualifications, experience etc, and the names and addresses of three referees should be sent to the Registrar, The University, Manchester, M13 9PL, by November 30th. Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, quoting reference 168/77/T.

RECEPTIONIST/ TELEPHONIST/ PERSON FRIDAY

for W.1 film production company—a lovely help-out-with everything kind of job for someone who can cope with a 4 line switchboard, a bit of typing and lots of activity. £3,000.

Call Pippa at ADventure 499 8992.

DESIGNERS GUILD

require sales staff with experience of high quality furniture and soft furnishings for their King's Road showroom. Salary negotiable, according to experience.

CALL CHRIS HALSEY,
351 1271

BOOKKEEPER/CASHIER
£3,500

Interesting and responsible role at the Holborn H.Q. of a famous British manufacturing company for an experienced person able to take over a wide cross-section of Accounting functions, including director's expenses. Busy job with generous benefits. Miss Sinclair, LAURIE & CO., 91 Moorgate, E.C.2. 606 6301. (Employment Agency).

USE YOUR FRENCH IN E.E.C. CONTEXT

Interesting role for efficient Audio Typist at Knightsbridge office of a national organisation heavily involved with Common Market liaison calling for a good level of French translation. Good salary plus generous benefits. Miss Kraushaar, CHALLONERS, 407 Oxford Street, W.1. 629 9651 (Employment Agency).

COURTENAY LINGERIE
BROOK STREET, W.1.

require Sales Assistant (20-30 years). You should have a good appearance, and kind friendly personality. £60 p.w. for 4½ day week, including Saturday morning.

Phone 629 0543

RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST required immediately for lively advertising/photographic company in the Strand area. Interesting job with excellent prospects for promotion to Sales Reception after training. Must be able to type. Own office. Good appearance, pleasant personality and sense of humour essential. Salary by negotiation but not less than £2,200 p.a. Please telephone Miss McTavish on 01-839 7126.

PUBLISHING. Have you the ability to establish a quick rapport with people and type accurately? Then become a Market Intelligence Officer researching and updating consumer product information. £2,900. Ring Peter Holwill, 581 1254, Wetlan Staff Consultants Ltd.

EXPERIENCED MC 82 Operators, to work for a rapidly expanding Insurance Company, in E.C.4. Excellent working conditions. Age immaterial. Salary £3,000 negotiable + LV's. For further information call Centacom Staff, 836 2875 (Strand) or 937 6636 (Kensington).

ZERO FOUR is looking for a responsible all-rounder with initiative to help in their children's wear shop at 53 South Moulton Street, W.1. Please ring Jo at 01-493 4920.

EXPERIENCED Sales Assistant, 28 to 35 years; good personality, S.W.3, Walton Street area; about 30hrs per week.—Ring morning or evening. 788 4945.

RECEPTIONIST for well known Ad. Agency. Smart, well presented person for pure reception duties. C. £3,000. Cath's Workshop (Agy), 656 2116.

RECEPTIONIST/TYPIST required for West End Design Consultants. 3 x 12 switchboard. Possibility of P.A. work and direct dealings with clients. Salary negotiable. Apply to Mrs Berkoss, 499 0261.

RECEPTIONIST, telephonist, typist, required by long-established antique furniture galleries, WC1 area. Interesting position for person wishing to further their knowledge of antiques. Phone 636 2121.

INN FOR ALL SEASONS.—Educated young cooks to join others similar in busy Cotswold Inn. Superb accommodation and conditions. Excellent wage. Over 20. Car driver an advantage. This is a very happy post, other young staff will confirm. (Closed over Christmas). Please phone Mrs West, Windrush (04514) 324 before noon or after 6 p.m.

AGED 18-20, with "A" levels? Administrative Assistant required for busy educational publishers in Fleet St. Interesting and varied work with good prospects. Private letters to Miss Deane, 107 Fleet St., London, E.C.4.

EXECUTIVE REQUIRES part-time driver for pleasant duties driving in and around London. Write Box 3939 J, The Times.

TASTE FOR ADVENTURE? Cordon Bleu Cook required for Kenya.—See Domestic Sits. Appts.

EXPERIENCED ASSISTANT (28-35) to Chef and Cook.—See Dom. Sits.

ASSISTANT, with audio typing, for editorial department of technical publishers. £3,000 + LVs.—Apply the Editor, Mining Journal, 15 Wilson St., London, EC2M 2TR. Telephone 606 2567.

NON-SECRETARIAL

Leading Advertising Agency
requires
RECEPTIONIST

If you are calm, self assured, 24+ and have the experience and authority to run the busy reception of one of London's most successful major ad agencies, there's an attractive opportunity waiting for you. For further details,

Ring Maggie Shuck on 01-580 6690

Vidal Sassoon

require Receptionist/Telephonist for their luxury Mayfair offices. The person appointed should be well spoken, of pleasing appearance and used to dealing with the general public. Preferred age range 25-35. Starting salary £65 p.w. + L.V.s and free hair care.

PLEASE TELEPHONE:
MRS LINDA HOWARD SPINK
ON 629 0813
FOR INTERVIEW.

TROUBLE SHOOTER

required by busy Estate Agency dealing with management, letting and relocation. Duties are varied and would include management of flats, supervision of Cleaners, some typing and lots of telephoning. Previous experience especially in relocation would help but is not essential, and a sense of humour is a definite advantage. Applicants should be 21+. Salary £3,250 p.a. 3 weeks holiday.

TELEPHONE 402 2271

WE REQUIRE A MATURE

TELEPHONIST/ RECEPTIONIST

with an interest in Social Work and a sense of humour for a busy Social Services Area Team at Fulham Broadway, S.W.6. Salary up to £3,439 p.a. inclusive.

For further information ring Mrs. Harrison (01-385 1151). Application forms from Asst. Director (Personnel), London Borough of Hammersmith, Hammersmith House (BOC Building), Black's Road, Hammersmith, W6 9EG., quoting ref. SAT.43.

SECRETARIAL

IMPERIAL COLLEGE
(UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)
SOUTH KENSINGTON

PERSONAL SECRETARY
£3,216-£3,799

Professor Sir Hugh Ford, Head of Department of Mechanical Engineering, requires Secretary, at least 24 years old, with first class secretarial skills and good organising ability for responsible position in busy office. Secretarial assistance is available. Salary in scale according to experience and qualifications. Good holidays: superannuation scheme, sports centre with swimming pool and other attractive social amenities.

Applications, with curriculum vitae, to Assistant Director, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Imperial College, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2BX.

LINKING OUR PERCEPT WITH YOUR ABILITY . . .

Gift-wrapped in a warm welcome, lovely surroundings, qualified consultants and the best jobs in London! Coffee's ready—looking forward to giving you a warm welcome.
PERMANENT & TEMPORARY

JOYCE GUINESS BUREAU
21 BROMPTON ARCADE,
BROMPTON ROAD,
KNIGHTSBRIDGE, S.W.3.
(Brompton Arcade is a few steps from Knightsbridge Tube Station, Sloane St. exit)
589 8807/0010
THE Recruitment Consultants

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE
£3,850

A fantastic opportunity awaits you if you're interested in developing your people abilities, have the talents of a Secretary/PA and want an exciting life in Advertising. Then this Managing Director is waiting for you! Start the wheels in motion by advertising yourself to me. I'm Pearl, on 828 8055.

CHURCHILL PERSONNEL CONSULTANTS,
Abford House,
15 Wilton Road, S.W.1.

TRY DEVELOPING ADMIN. AND RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Director of SW1-based Engineering Consultancy needs a Secretary with plenty of personal initiative and the ability to develop office Admin. systems, start research programmes into firms worth contacting. Very varied job starting at around £3,300. Ian Smith, CHALLONERS, 17 Broadway, SW1. 222 3052. (Employment Agency.)

Work with Busy Team at Around £4,000

Executive team at head office of international company off Park Lane need a numerate, skilled Secretary able to provide all their collective secretarial services. Interesting work calling for initiative and above all common sense. Miss Baines, CHALLONERS, 193 Victoria Street, SW1. 828 3845. (Employment Agency.)

ARE YOU a capable administrator? If so a leading firm of Management Consultants need you to handle liaison between clients and consultants, cope with general administration and do some typing. Salary £3,700. Age 25+. For full details call Cath's Workshop (Agy) 656 2116.

TERM-TIME SECRETARY for zoology dept. of university. Fast, accurate typing without shorthand. Ideal job if you need to be home in school hols. £55 weekly. COVENT GARDEN BUREAU, 53 Fleet St., EC4. 353 7696.

SECRETARY M.D. Travel Co. W.1. Senior job dealing VIPs, etc. £3,700 neg. Belle Agency, 935 0751.

AUDIO SECRETARY for Senior Manager of International Co., W.C.2. Varied and interesting work, some admin. Excellent typing speeds and spelling, flexi hours. £3,700. Regency Personnel 636 9156/6.

FILM PRODUCTION CO. needs competent P.A./Sec. with personality plus to assist Producer/Director. Must work well under pressure. LOTS of client contact. £3,500. Jaygar Careers, 730 3148.

VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE! Our top Executive requires a competent Admin. Assistant or Secretary to help him manage his busy office. Shorthand, typing and a sense of humour are a must, but age immaterial. We are situated in W.8/W.11 and we'll pay you £3,000 p.a. for putting up with us! Telephone Sheila Holt, 01-737 2321.

SECRETARIES FOR ARCHITECTS. Permanent/temporary positions. AMSA Agency, 01-734 0532.

SECRETARIAL

c. £3,500
in small organisation

P.A./PERSONAL SECRETARY

required by the Secretary-General of a professional institute (adjacent to Chancery Lane Station). Varied and interesting work in congenial atmosphere. Shorthand necessary, but no figure work involved. Non contributory pension scheme.

Please write stating age (preferably over 25), and experience to Mr N. J. Page, Institute of Actuaries, Staple Inn Hall, High Holborn, London WC1V 7QJ, or telephone Mr Page or Mr Mackie on 01-242 0106.

ADVERTISING

2 Account Executives in City require bright, young Secretary to join their team. Good secretarial skills. Would suit 2nd jobber.

SALARY £3,000

We also specialise in publishing and public relations appointments.

ADVERTISING PERSONNEL
5 Mill St. (off Maddox St.), W.1.
01-629 0823

P.A. TO SENIOR EXEC.

An opportunity to prove how good you are. This is a key position in an International Co. Up to £4,000.

DIRECTOR'S P.A.

For a fast growing ad. agency. Personality counts most. Up to £3,800.

PUBLISHING P.A./SEC.

Director of well known publishers needs an efficient lively person. Charming boss. £3,500.

To find out more call Charmaine Fenton, 439 9241.

BUREAU CLASSICAL

T.V. COMMERCIAL PRODUCER

needs a

P.A./SECRETARY

to run his office and organize his day. You will be in contact with important people at top level so you'll need a clear head and a confident outgoing personality. £3,500.

PATHFINDERS
(Personnel Services)
629 3132
32 Maddox St., W.1.
(1 min Oxford Circus tube)

SECRETARY/P.A.

required for Director of W.1 film company involved in making commercials and sponsored films. Knowledge of the advertising industry advantageous, but basic skills essential. Salary £3,500 negotiable.

Call Penny Mundy on
01-437 9611

SECRETARY (AUDIO)

for young senior partner in Park Lane property consultants. This is an interesting and varied position. Essential qualities: accurate typing, good appearance and bright personality. 4 weeks holiday. £3,200 p.a.

TELEPHONE: FRANCES HERBERT, 499 4278

SECRETARY/PA CHELSEA

To work with architects and project manager on exciting project in South America. Spanish would be useful. Small friendly and informal offices. Around £3,500 p.a. Please ring Sally Walker-Gray,

352 1075

P.A./SEC., £3,200 Neg.

Hold the fort for Directors, arrange travel itineraries, entertainment for overseas clients, answer queries on new products. Use initiative to take responsibility. Help to run the department. Secretarial skills? Then call Anthea Davies on 734 0911. DRAKE PERSONNEL (Agency), 225 Regent Street, W.1.

CHURCH CONSERVATION

City office requires office Supervisor/Sec. (30/50) to commence 1978. To assist in running an office which advises on the care and conservation of churches. Suit someone seeking a stimulating and busy post who can cope well with people at all levels. "From Dukes to Dustmen" circa £3,500 Peter Holwill 581 1254 Wetlan Staff Consultants Ltd.

SECRETARY SH/ADMIN Assistant for City Brokers. Young graduates welcomed. £ neg. Stella Fisher Bureau, 110 Strand, W.C.2. 836 6644.

SHIP'S PERSONNEL OFFICER, W.1, needs P.A./Sec., 21+, interested in social work, well-educated, good speaking voice, accurate shorthand and typing, wide-ranging duties dealing with men on ships, wives, liaison, etc. Highly confidential, around £3,500 p.a. LVs, bonus, fringe benefits. JOYCE GUINESS STAFF BUREAU, 589 8807.

SECRETARY, ALGIERS with French, £6,823 + food and accom., for Anglo-American Co. Belle Agy., 4 Marylebone High St., W.1. 935 0751, 408 4844.

FRENCH/ENGLISH, college leaver English shorthand. Romford £3,000+. Language Staff Agency 629 8585.

DESIGN in Knightsbridge!—Interior Designers need Receptionist, 19+, good typing, able to cope with small switch and clients, in super office with super people. Must be well educated. Up to £3,000 p.a. 4 weeks hols.—JOYCE GUINESS STAFF BUREAU, 589 8807.

SECRETARIAL

Copy Typist

Services and Survey Unit

Which? magazine needs an experienced copy-typist to prepare artwork for questionnaires to readers, reports, tabulations, etc. The successful candidate will be a fast and accurate typist, with a good eye for layout, and an ability to work on his/her own initiative on a variety of office duties. A good general education is required with at least an 'O' level pass in English.

Salary around £2,900 a year with benefits including Pension and Life Assurance schemes, luncheon vouchers, five weeks' holiday and interest-free loans for season tickets.

Please write or telephone the Personnel Officer for an application form, to be sent. Consumers' Association, 14 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6DS. Tel.: 01-839 1222.

SECRETARY/ HOUSEKEEPER/MANAGER

The best job in London for an intelligent, efficient, highly qualified perfectionist, to live in (beautiful personal quarters) and manage the prettiest company house in Regents Park. House when occupied requires reasonable secretarial skills and some book keeping.

Only those presently employed in very top positions with exceptional references should apply.

Ask for Miss Kerr 487 3331.

ARTS COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN

Art Department requires a

SECRETARY/ASSISTANT

To the Photography Officer

Salary £3,100 p.a. Duties will include organising and convening monthly committee meetings; dealing with grant applicants and assisting the Photography Officer with general administrative duties.

The successful applicants will have fast Shorthand and Typing, administrative experience, and an interest in Photography would be an advantage.

4 weeks holiday p.a.

Write with full details to: The Establishment Officer, 105 Piccadilly, W1V 0AU, to arrive by Wednesday, 23rd November, or ring 01-629 9495, extn. 29.

PERSONNEL
UP TO £4,000

The charming Personnel Director of a large International Agency is looking for a PA/Secretary to help him keep track of his people and business all round the world. If you are between 25 and 35, with a good educational background, well spoken and well dressed, have top secretarial skills, and wanting a super job please ring Liz Belton at our City office.

SENIOR SECRETARIES
Recruitment Consultants
01-606 1611

PUBLIC RELATIONS
£3,700

As this dynamic Director's P.A. you'll utilize your talents to the fullest! You'll assist in liaising with all his clients, handle the Press Releases, and organize his day in this exciting world of Public Relations. Your prospects are unlimited as you pick up the phone and ring Terry at 828 8055.

CHURCHILL PERSONNEL CONSULTANTS
Abford House
15 Wilton Road, S.W.1

ART IN MAYFAIR

Director of a famous firm of Auctioneers and Art Dealers in the West End is looking for a Secretary with charm and ability to assist him. Duties include lots of client contact—you'll need a cool head and good secretarial skills to cope with the daily running of busy and important office. Salary £3,200. Age 21+.

BERNADETTE OF BOND ST.,
Recruitment Consultants,
No. 55, next door to Fenwicks,
01-629 3669. 01-629 7363

SUPER SPOT AT SMALL SLOANE STREET OFFICE

Energetic private Secretary needed by busy Partner at friendly professional firm. Calls for considerable intelligence and the ability to handle a lot of phone work and client contact smoothly. To £3,500. Miss Burr, CHALLONERS, 5/7 Brompton Road, S.W.3. 581 2753 (Employment Agency).

Handle Press Releases, set up Receptions for Furnishing Fabric Publicity

Manager responsible for all U.K. Publicity and P.R. at international fashion and furnishing fabric organisation needs alert young Secretary to assist with a wide range of exhibition P.R. and press liaison. Flexi time and up to £3,100. Miss Gibbs, CHALLONERS, 19/23, Oxford Street, W.1. 437 9030 (Employment Agency).

SECRETARY/P.A. £3,750 p.a. to organise 2 Partners in small recently established expanding professional practice in Sloane Square. Audio work and must be able to work on own initiative. Start 12 December.—730 5758 between 9.30 & 5.

FULL/PART TIME P.A./Secretary to Finance Director Friendly Charity, London, W.1, with club facilities and subsidized luncheons, £3,000 p.a. pro rata. English Speaking Union. Tel. 01-629 0104.

RENOWNED ART SCHOOL, WC1, needs well organized Sec. with fast sh./typing £2,750-£3,250. COVENT GARDEN BUREAU, 53 Fleet St., EC4. 353 7696.

GAMES IN THE CITY.—M.D. Electronics Games organisation, needs exceptional P.A./Sec. mid-20s, to provide total back-up. Good shorthand, typing, education and presentation. Initiative and career motivation essential, will deals with projects from start to finish, taking personal responsibilities; car driver essential, super offices. From £4,000 p.a. neg. JOYCE GUINESS STAFF BUREAU, 589 8807.

NEAR BOW LANE.—Small, friendly prestigious merchant bank giving scope for individuality. Needs PA/Sec, late 20s, for Financiers. Good formal skills, able to deal with a lot of admin. Friendly cooperation the key note. Around £4,000 p.a.—JOYCE GUINESS STAFF BUREAU, 589 8807.

MAGAZINE, famous and international, EC4 need young Secretary. Some experience to work with Deputy and literary editors, must be efficient, have good formal skills, flexible approach, good mixer, able to organize lunches. Sense of humour paramount. £3,000 p.a. JOYCE GUINESS STAFF BUREAU, 589 8807.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY
(APPEALS)

Responsible to the General Manager and Secretary for the efficient day-to-day routine and overall administration of the Society's fund-raising activities. We envisage the successful candidate will be in the 35-45 age range, capable of maintaining office procedures and records, and able to deal with a variety of mail on own initiative.

Salary will be related to experience but will not be less than £3,750 p.a. with generous pension scheme and life assurance.

Details of career to date, with salaries earned, which will be treated in confidence, should be sent marked "Private" to: General Manager and Secretary
THE ROYAL LONDON SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND
105-9 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6RH.

PERSONNEL OPPORTUNITY

West End Company needs young secretary in their Personnel Department.

This is a lively busy job which will best suit someone aged 20-21 with adequate, though not necessarily fantastic, shorthand/typing speeds.

Salary a.a.e., probably around £3,000.

LONDON CAREERS
01-794 0202

SURROUNDED BY MEN
£3,500 PLUS

Your independent mind and creative thoughts will not be overlooked as you organize the private and personal side of this Partner's busy day. Variety is the key—you'll be meeting plenty of people as you liaise with the other five Partners of this stimulating company: With your outgoing personality and secretarial abilities you will find great self-satisfaction, so get where the action is and phone Simone on 828 8055.

CHURCHILL PERSONNEL CONSULTANTS
Abford House
15 Wilton Road, S.W.1

PUBLISHERS

ADVERTISING Director requires secretary for small group of international technical periodicals near Liverpool Street. Age 23-35 preferred, good secondary education, first class audio typing, experience of maintaining records and operating follow-up and filing systems. Post offers scope for personal initiative to someone who is prepared to undertake a variety of duties. Own office. Salary £3,250 plus 35p LV's and Xmas bonus in '78. 35 hour week.

Apply Mrs Greenwood
on 01-606 2567

ADMIN. ASSISTANT TO £4,000

Sales Manager of up-market Textile Co. needs male or female with lots of initiative and fast typing. Shorthand useful but speedwriting or speedy handwriting just as good. £1.25 L.V.s and generous discount on fabrics. Nice modern environment. BROOK STREET BUREAU, 589 0091. Employment Service.

SENIOR ROLE AT BIG DRINKS FIRM
TO £3,500

Export Director at major British distillers company is looking for a competent Secretary with previous management level experience and able to set up conferences, handle visitors and generally create a first-class impression for the company. Miss Kaye, CHALLONERS, 22 Wormwood Street, E.C.2. 638 3846 (Employment Agency).

AUDIO OR SHORTHAND

LEGAL SECRETARY, £3,825
XMAS BONUS!

Work for a super Partner in fabulous City offices. Company, commercial or any legal exp. okay. Other perks include ticket loan. 30p LVs, two salary reviews.
01-353 6951

STAFFSCENE LEGAL

HARLEY STREET GP requires efficient and experienced Secretary £3,500 with excellent prospects.—M & S Agency, 629 3321.

COME TO W.8. We are looking for a bright Secretary to run the office of a small high level business. Please ring Noel Fisher at 937 8277 during the daytime.

COLLEGE LEAVER SECRETARIES It's always the widest choice at COVENT GARDEN BUREAU, 53 Fleet St., E.C.4. 353 7696.

PUBLISHING SECRETARIES for the widest choice. It's always Covent Garden Bureau, 53 Fleet St., E.C.4. 353 7696.

MUSIC.—West End Concert Agency requires competent shorthand typist assistant for concert management department. Interest in theory of music desirable. Salary by negotiation. Write with details, age, experience, etc., to Ibbs & Tillett, 124, Wigmore St., W1H 0AX. Tel. 486 4021.

GRADUATES. College leavers. Some sec. skills. Temp. posts to 170p. Tolson Staff Bureau. 734 0108.

STUTTGART. English mother tongue. Audio PA with German, £6,000 plus. Language Staff Agy., 629 8585.

NO SHORTHAND! Sec./P.A., flexi-hours, £3,500 + +. Meet VIPs, arrange travel, hotels, etc. City. 60p LVs. Staffscene, 353 6951.

UGENT. High level P.A. for Executive of Shipping, travel and helicopter operators. Good shorthand typing, educational background and friendly manner. London Bridge. Salary c. £3,800. 01-407 0835, ext. 1.

SECRETARIAL

Secretary

We are a mining finance house in the City and we are looking for an efficient secretary to work at executive level in a small management section dealing, in the main, with the Company's interests in the U.S.A. The job requires excellent shorthand and typing skills, initiative and a good telephone manner.

Hours of work are from 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. (with an hour for lunch), and other conditions include free lunches, non-contributory pension scheme and 17 working days annual holiday (increasing with service).

Starting salary will depend on age and experience but would not be less than £2,800 at age 20. In addition, a substantial discretionary bonus is normally paid twice a year.

Please write to, or telephone:
Miss S. Edwards, Personnel Officer
CONSOLIDATED GOLD FIELDS LIMITED
49 Moorgate, London EC2R 6BQ
Tel. No. 01-606 1020, Ext. 132

SECRETARY FOR PUBLISHING COMPANY

£3,000

Established hardback Publishing House needs an enthusiastic Audio Secretary General Rights Assistant to work for the Rights Manager. The successful candidate will enjoy varied responsibilities and become very involved in the workings of this busy department, besides undertaking normal secretarial duties. Previous publishing experience an advantage.
Hours 9.30-5.30, 4 weeks holiday, 45p L.V's per day, plus good perks.

Please telephone Linda Manfield on 637 0941.
MICHAEL JOSEPH LTD.,
52 Bedford Square, London, WC1.

£3,500 p.a.

waiting for self-motivated Audio Secretary (mid-20s) on Marketing/Publicity side of large international musical instrument manufacturing company.

Working for two go-ahead men, there will be plenty of interesting telephone and follow-up work. Apply Rita Bishop, 01-836 8131.

Audio Secretary/Telephonist

Hanover Street, W.1

Small company of Chartered Surveyors require alert active Secretary to look after two young Surveyors and run the office for them.

£3,250 p.a. 9.30-5.30
Call Aldon Ferguson
01-629 [illegible]

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 003426 of 1977
No. 003427 of 1977

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
MR. REGISTRAR DEARBERGH

In the Matter of CARLIOL INVESTMENT TRUST Limited and in the Matter of THE TYNESIDE INVESTMENT TRUST, Limited and in the Matter of the Companies Act 1948

Notice is hereby given that by Orders dated the 2nd November 1977 the Court has directed (1) a Meeting of the holders of the 4 per cent Cumulative Preference Shares (other than those beneficially owned by the above-named The Tyneside Investment Trust, Limited) of the above-named Carliol Investment Trust Limited (hereinafter called "Carliol") and (2) separate Meetings of the holders of

(1) the 5 per cent Cumulative Preference Shares (other than those beneficially owned by Carliol)
(2) the 4½ per cent Convertible Unsecured Loan Stock 1994/99
(3) the 4¼ per cent First Debenture Stock 1977/81
(4) the 5½ per cent First Debenture Stock 1977/81
(5) the 5½ per cent First Debenture Stock 1980/85
(6) the 6½ per cent First Debenture Stock 1980/85
(7) the 6½ per cent First Debenture Stock 1985/90
and
(8) the Ordinary Shares respectively of the abovenamed The Tyneside Investment Trust, Limited (hereinafter called "Tyneside").

to be convened for the purpose of considering and if thought fit approving (with or without modification) a SCHEME of ARRANGEMENT proposed to be made between Tyneside and the holders of its:—

(1) 4½ per cent Convertible Unsecured Loan Stock 1994/99
(2) 4¼ per cent First Debenture Stock 1977/81
(3) 5½ per cent First Debenture Stock 1977/81
(4) 5½ per cent First Debenture Stock 1980/85
(5) 6½ per cent First Debenture Stock 1980/85
(6) 6½ per cent First Debenture Stock 1985/90
(7) 5 per cent Cumulative Preference Shares of 25p each (other than those which are beneficially owned by Carliol) and
(8) Ordinary Shares of 25p each

and between Carliol and the holders of its 4 per cent Cumulative Preference Shares of 25p each (other than those which are beneficially owned by Tyneside) and that such Meetings will be held at the Royal Station Hotel, Neville Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, 1, on the 9th December, 1977, at the respective times specified in the second column of the Schedule hereto at which place and respective times all such Stockholders and Shareholders are requested to attend.

Any person entitled to attend the said Meetings can obtain copies of the said Scheme of Arrangement. Forms of Proxy and copies of the Statement required to be furnished pursuant to Section 207 of the above-mentioned Act at the Registered Offices of Carliol and Tyneside both situate at "A" Floor, Milburn House, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1LU and at the office of the undermentioned Solicitors at the address mentioned below during usual business hours on any day (other than a Saturday or a Sunday) prior to the day appointed for the said Meetings.

The said Stockholders and Shareholders may vote in person at such of the said Meetings as they are entitled to attend or they may appoint another person whether a member of the class or not as their proxy to attend and vote in their stead.

It is requested that forms appointing proxies be lodged with the Secretary of Carliol and Tyneside respectively at their Registered Offices situate at "A" Floor, Milburn House, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1LU not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for the said Meetings, but if forms are not so lodged they may be handed to the Chairman at the Meeting at which they are to be used.

In the case of joint holders the vote of the senior who tenders a vote whether in person or by proxy will be accepted to the exclusion of the votes of the other joint holders, and for this purpose seniority will be determined by the order in which the names stand in the Register of Members of Carliol and the Registers of Members, and Stockholders respectively of Tyneside.

By the said Orders the Court has appointed Derrick Allix Pease or failing him, Robert Henry Dickinson or failing him, Peter Alan Hill-Walker to act as Chairman of the said Meeting of Carliol, and has appointed Robert Henry Dickinson or failing him, Derrick Allix Pease or failing him, Peter Alan Hill-Walker to act as Chairman of each of the said Meetings of Tyneside and has directed each of the Chairmen to report the results thereof to the Court.

The said Scheme of Arrangement will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Court.

THE SCHEDULE BEFORE REFERRED TO

Particulars of Class Meetings Ordered to be Convened	Time appointed for Meeting on Friday the 9th day of December 1977
(1) Holders of the Preference Shares of Carliol (other than those beneficially owned by Tyneside)	10.30 o'clock in the forenoon
(2) Holders of the Preference Shares of Tyneside (other than those beneficially owned by Carliol)	10.50 o'clock in the forenoon or so soon thereafter as an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Members of Carliol convened for the same place and date shall have been concluded or adjourned
(3) Holders of the 4½ per cent Convertible Unsecured Loan Stock 1994/99 of Tyneside	11 o'clock in the forenoon or so soon thereafter as the preceding Meeting shall have been concluded or adjourned
(4) Holders of the 4¼ per cent First Debenture Stock 1977/81 of Tyneside	11.10 o'clock in the forenoon or so soon thereafter as the preceding Meeting shall have been concluded or adjourned
(5) Holders of the 5½ per cent First Debenture Stock 1977/81 of Tyneside	11.20 o'clock in the forenoon or so soon thereafter as the preceding Meeting shall have been concluded or adjourned
(6) Holders of the 5½ per cent First Debenture Stock 1980/85 of Tyneside	11.30 o'clock in the forenoon or so soon thereafter as the preceding Meeting shall have been concluded or adjourned
(7) Holders of the 6½ per cent First Debenture Stock 1980/85 of Tyneside	11.40 o'clock in the forenoon or so soon thereafter as the preceding Meeting shall have been concluded or adjourned
(8) Holders of the 6½ per cent First Debenture Stock 1985/90 of Tyneside	11.50 o'clock in the forenoon or so soon thereafter as the preceding Meeting shall have been concluded or adjourned
(9) Holders of the Ordinary Shares of Tyneside	12.00 o'clock noon or so soon thereafter as the preceding Meeting shall have been concluded or adjourned

Dated this Fourteenth day of November 1977.
DICKINSON DEES & COMPANY, Cross House, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE99 1SB. Solicitors for the above-named Companies

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948 In the Matter of ENCLARITE Limited No 00711 of 1975

Notice is hereby given that a FIRST and FINAL DIVIDEND to CREDITORS is intended to be DECLARED in the above-named Company and that Creditors who have not already proved their claims are to come in and prove such claims on or before the 30th November, 1977, after which date the Official Receiver and Liquidator of the above-named Company will proceed to distribute the assets of the said Company having regard only to such Creditors as shall then have proved their claims.

L. R. BATES, Official Receiver and Liquidator, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1N 2HD.

THE COMPANIES ACTS 1948 to 1967 VAN HOUTEN PATISSIERS Limited

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to section 293 of the Companies Act 1948, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-named Company will be held at Room 1, Winchester House, London Wall, London, EC2 on Friday, the 25th day of November 1977, at 10.30 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purposes mentioned in sections 294 and 295 of the said Act.

Dated this 10th day of November 1977

By Order of the Board.
F. D. B. VAN HOUTEN
Director.

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948 In the Matter of COUNTY LEISURE Limited Nature of Business: Leisure consultants

WINDING-UP ORDER MADE Monday, the 10th day of October, 1977

DATE and PLACE of FIRST MEETINGS:

CREDITORS 29th November, 1977, at Room 239, Templar House, 81 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LP at 10.00 o'clock

CONTRIBUTORIES on the same day and at the same place at 10.30 o'clock

L. R. BATES, Official Receiver and Provisional Liquidator.

In the Matter of The Companies Acts, 1948 to 1976 and in the Matter of F. T. WHITE & SONS Limited (In Liquidation). Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 299 of the Companies Act, 1948, that a General Meeting of the Members of the above-named Company will be held at the Offices of W. H. CORK, GULLY & CO., Chartered Accountants of Guildhall House, 81/87 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7DS, on Friday, the 25th day of November 1977, at 3.45 p.m. to be followed at 4 p.m. by a General Meeting of the Creditors for the purpose of receiving an account of the Liquidators' Acts and Dealings and of the conduct of the Winding-Up to date.

Dated this 9th day of November, 1977.

C. J. LAMEY, O. N. MARTIN, Joint Liquidators.

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948 In the Matter of CRAFTSMAN DEVELOPMENTS Limited Nature of Business: Property dealers.

WINDING-UP ORDER MADE 17th October, 1977.

DATE and PLACE of FIRST MEETINGS:

CREDITORS 28th November, 1977, at Room G20, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1N 2HD at 2.00 o'clock.

CONTRIBUTORIES on the same day and at the same place at 2.30 o'clock.

H. W. J. CHRISTMAS, Official Receiver and Provisional Liquidator

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948 In the Matter of MULBERRY MARKETING AND MERCHANDISING Limited. Nature of Business: Marketing services.

WINDING-UP ORDER MADE 10th October, 1977.

DATE and PLACE of FIRST MEETINGS:

CREDITORS 29th November, 1977 at Room 239, Templar House, 81 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LP, at 11.00 o'clock.

CONTRIBUTORIES on the same day and at the same place at 11.30 o'clock.

L. R. BATES, Official Receiver and Provisional Liquidator.

. . . ALSO ON PAGE 27

The Times Reader Services Directory

The who's who of what's where

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Palmer Bros., Mazda distributors. S.E. London and Kent. 01-302 3290.
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CAR DEALERS

Alan Day Ltd. Mercedes-Benz/VWAudi, 341-351 Finchley Road, Hampstead, London. NW3 6ET. 01- 435 1132.
BMW leasing specialists Harrington Motors, Horsham. 60246.
Citroen, Continental Car Centre, 1 Hale Lane, N.W.7. 01-959 1415.
Colin Grant, W.1. B.M.W., Mercedes, Porsche, Ferrari. 01-794 0009
Mercedes-Benz, Home & Export, Geyford Ltd, 197 Tooting High St. S.W 17. 767 0079.
Saab in Hampshire. Russel Company. Wallop 892.
Scimitar Moto of Catford. 8-10 Rushey Green, Catford, S.E 6 01-690 3313.
Toyota Top Dealer London. " Fulton ", 01-748 2677 & 01-969 0012.
William Loughran, Rolls-Royce Bentley dealers. Preston 0772, 613114/613213.

GARAGE SERVICES

Alan Day, Malvern Road. N.W.16. Mercedes Service. Tel. 01-328 4731.
Auto Services. 179 The Broadway, W. Hendon, N.W.9. 202 0438.
Car Valeting by Clean Machine. Russell Sq. 01-837 8912/9449.
Central Motors (Canterbury Garage) Ltd. 14 Canterbury Road. Kilburn NW6 Tel. 01-286 7768.
Crossroads Auto Centre, specialists mechanical repairs. 328 7424.
Jaguar Services. Specialist repairs for Jaguars. 01-639 1000.
J & H Motors Accident Repairs, 58 Harleyford Road, Vauxhall. S E.11. 01-735 8230/1167.
Renault Spares Discount Prices. Pat Accessories. 898 1253.
Roverhire for Leyland cars, Seagrave Rd. S.W.6. 01-385 1221
Sama reconditioned engines car, commercial, marine. 204 8393
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Tyresales Southern Ltd. Tyres, batteries, etc. 01-643 1161. ext. 4.
Tyreservice Great Britain. 300 branches. See Yellow Pages
W.S. Tyremasters. Keen prices. Good services. See Yellow Pages.

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Apex Motor Caravans. Hire and Sales phone 01-735 5956.
Avalon Mobile, accom. & accessories. 0422 844525. Telex 527534.
Bromley Motor Co, motor caravan specialists. 01-464 1134.
G.T. Towing, 6 Hatfield Rd. Potters Bar. Herts. Tel. 52118.
Hammerton Caravans, C.I. distributors. Ingrebourne 41017.
K. J. Caravans Ltd. 71-87 Edinburgh St., Hessle Rd., Hull. 28889.
Penla Motor Homes Ltd. Reading. Bath. Chertsey. 0734 413441.
Wembley Int Motor Caravans, Hire/Sales. 01-903 7166.
Wilsons Motor Caravan Centres. Sales/Hire. Epsom. Tel. 28391 and Brixton. 01-274 4011.

Mortgage Brokers & Insurance

Accident & General Insurance Brokers Ltd., New South Wales House, 15 Adam St., Strand WC2N 6AH. 01-839 5068.
Alan and Gwenneth Casey, Private Ins. Brokers. 01-866 2246.
Beaumont Plumtree & Co., 201 Cranbrook Road. Ilford. Essex IG1 4TP. Tel. 01-518 1137.
Bernard Howard Brokers. 811 High Rd., N. Finchley N12 8JT. 01-445 6619.
Berns Brett & Co. Ltd. 190 Forest Rd., E17 6JG. 01-520 0214/01-520 7262/3.
Charles Angus & Co (Ins Brokers), 193 Victoria St, S.W.1. 01-828 7595/6.
Dutton and Clark Ltd, 44 Coombe Lane, SW20 0LU. 01-946 4322/1194.
Joseph Hadley, Sophia House, 76/80 City Rd, E.C.1. 01-253 4333. Telex 21678.
Metropolitan Insurance Brokers Ltd (Motor & General). 434 Garratt Lane, SW18 4HN. 01-947 0131.
Metropolitan Mortgage Consultants Ltd, 234 Upper Richmond Road, Putney, London, S.W.15. 01-789 8038.
Michael Chamberlin & Co, Assoc. Insurance Brokers, 222/225 Strand, W.C.2. 01-353 4548.
Michael Lewis Associates Ltd—Tax—Sheltered plans for U.K. and expatriate investors. 3 Castle St., Cardiff. 0222-398512.
Moffatt & Co. (London) Ltd. Percy House. 796 High St., N.17. 01-808 2003.
Residential & Commercial Mortgages DBC Ltd.. 01-980 0926.
School Fees Insurance Agency Ltd. 10 Queen St.. Maidenhead. Barks SL6 1JA. (0628) 23461.
Sports Car Ins. Specialists Ltd. 201 Green Lanes, N.13. 01-889 3434.

Catering-Private & Commercial

City Caterers for executive catering. 01-247 1485.
Commercial Catering Services Ltd., Contractors. 04867 80408.
Crown Catering Services. Private caterers. Romford 22145.
Delivery Luncheon Service from Lunch Box. 01-730 5326.
Dinner Parties. For menu brochure, David Kench. 446 2767.
Fleur De Coin Ltd. Private caterers. 01-960 8041/584 0442.
Gilberts Bureau, W.C.2. Hotel, Catering & Domestic Staff. 437 4641.
Graison (Caterers) Ltd. Private caterers. 01-834 4353.
Katers commercial staff, maintenance, buy/sell/lease. 589 2182.
M.C.S. Ltd. Equipment design, events & staff catering. 06285 22844.
Mayfair Catering Co Ltd., W.1.. Also equipment hire. 01-629 0175.
Murrays Catg. All private functions catered for. 370 1829.
Rebate Services (Catering Centres) Ltd.-(0533) 52037.
Ring & Brymer. The City's top private caterers. 01-377 2552.
Searcy's. 136 Brompton Road, London SW3 1HY. Tel. 01-584 3344.
Taylorplan Catering. Industrial caterers. 01-940 6080.
Zoppas Catering Equip Ltd. 310 Western Rd., S.W.19. 01-640 3477.

Executive Services

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Arthur Monk (Car Cruisers) Ltd. Chauffeur driven cars and mini coaches. 794 8111.
Barnes Hire Ltd. Self drive. 7 River St. E.C.1. 01-837 9891.
Budget Rent-a-Car. Mayfair. 723 8038—Heathrow Airport. 759 2216.
Guy Salmon Car Rentals, 9-23 Bryanston St. Marble Arch, W.1. 01-408 1255.
London-wide Radio Taxis. 9-11 Woodfield Rd, London W9 2BA. 01-286 1046.
Maxwell Car Services, luxury cars, 24hr. service. 01-748 3000.
Miles & Miles Ltd. Self Drive Car Hire. 18 Petersham Mews, Kensington, SW7 5NR. 01-584 9297.
Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow and Daimler Limousines. Andrews Limousines. 01-441 0296.
Roverhire Ltd. Leyland Cars. Seagrave Rd., S.W.6. 01-385 1221.
Teleportation. 01-794 8282. Chauffeured cars for all occasions.
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Melair. 54 Roebuck House, Stag Place, S.W.1. 01-834 6926. Telex 919216.
Personal Box Office Service. 01-550 6977, Ticket Broker.

Fashion & Beauty

Beautiful Nails, Nail Sculpture. Juliette Nails. 01-352 3862.
Caracalla Hair Studio. 126 Wigmore Street, W.1. 486 4960.
Fabian Furs. 36 Knightsbridge, SW1. 01-235 5572.
Hairdressing, Sounds of St James's, 12 Princes Arc, Jermyn St. 01-734 1922.
Hugh-Alan, Belgravia's only progressive hairdressers. 01-730 2196.
Ivor's Place, hair salon, fashion, boutique. 28 Motcomb St. SW1. 01-235 2228
Joseph Kendall, 69 York Street, 94 Crawford Street, W.1. 723 7553/0367.
Michael Fishberg. Fine jewellery. 89 Golders Grn Rd., N.W.11. 01-458 4477.
Michel Hairdressing. 138 Notting Hill Gate. W.11. 01-727 9251/9252.
Reina Furs, 18 Hanover St. London W.1. 01-629 9583.

LEGAL NOTICES ALSO ON PAGE 25

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RENTALS

SERVICES

(continued on page 28)

Broadcasting

4.45 pm BBC 1 — *Johnny Morris, seeking a name for Longleat's baby giraffe, returns with the first of a new Animal Magic series. Each week children will be told how to look after their pets. Splendid.*

8.30 pm BBC 1 — The last heat of Mastermind before this season's semi-finals again has one woman against three men (which may make the odds about even).

9.10 pm ITV — Granada's much-appreciated Hard Times ends with almost everyone, including even old Bounderby, living happily ever after. The exception is unwilling emigrant, Tom, the bank thief discovered.—I.R.R.

BBC 1

12.45 pm, News. 1.00, Pebble Mill. 1.45, How Do You Do ! 2.00-2.14, You and Me. 3.20, Pobol y Cwm. 3.55, Play School. 4.20, Astronut. 4.25, Jackanory. 4.40, Animal Magic. 5.05, John Craven. 5.10, Big John, Little John. 5.35, Noah and Nelly.

5.40 News. 5.55, Nationwide.
6.40 One More Times.
7.10 The Oregon Trail.
8.00 It Ain't Half Hot Mum.
8.30 Mastermind.
9.00 Labour Party political broadcast.
9.10 News.
9.35 Play: Nipper, by Barrie Keeffe.
10.50 Tonight. Parkinson v Swanton.
11.30 Bellamy's Europe.
12.00 Weather.

Regional variations (BBC 1): BBC WALES: 3.20-3.55 pm, Transmitters closedown. 5.10-5.35, Horses Galore. 5.55-6.20, Wales Today. 6.40, Heddiw. 7.10, Pobol y Cwm. 7.40-8.30, The Oregon Trail. SCOTLAND: 3.20-3.55 pm, Transmitters closedown. 5.55-6.20, Reporting Scotland. 6.40-7.10, The Other One. 11.30, Help Yourself to Health. 11.55, News. NORTHERN IRELAND: 3.20-3.53 pm, Transmitters closedown. 3.53-3.55, Northern Ireland News. 5.55-6.20, Scene Around Six. 6.40-7.10, As I Roved Out. ENGLAND: 6.40-7.10 pm. East, Spot On !: Midlands, Top Gear: North, Beneath the Pennines: North-East, Looks Natural: North-West, We'll Call You: South, In Our Own Time: South-West, Peninsula, pop music in Cornwall. West, A Family of Strangers.

BBC 2

9.25 am, CBI Conference. 11.00, Play School. 11.25-12.45 pm, CBI Conference. 2.30, Trade Union Studies. 3.00, Inside The Press. 3.30-3.55, Politics Now—*the Loneliest Job.*

7.00 News Headlines.
7.05 Tele-France.
7.30 Newsday.
8.10 Floodlit Rugby: Castleford v Leeds.
9.00 As BBC 1.
9.10 The Goodies.
9.40 The Water Margin.
10.25 Beaune 76, charity sale of wines of the Hospices.
11.15 News.
11.25 The Old Grey Whistle Test, with Cher and Greg Allman, Ben Didran.

12.05-12.10 am, Lyndon Brook reads The Bull Moses, by Ted Hughes.

Thames

11.55 am, Felix the Cat. 12.00, The Wotsit from Whizz-bang. 12.10 pm, Hickory House (r). 12.30, The Inventors. 1.00, News. 1.20, Help ! 1.30, Crown Court. 2.00, After Noon. 2.25, The Stars Look Down (r). 3.20, Looks Familiar. 3.50, The Sullivans. 4.20, Sooty. 4.45, Magpie. 5.15, Sportscene.

5.45 News. 6.00, Thames at 6.
6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Get Some In ! (r).
7.30 Oh No It's Selwyn Froggitt.
8.00 Charlie's Angels.
9.00 Labour Party political broadcast.
9.10 Hard Times.
10.10 News.
10.40 Billy—Violence in a Family, documentary.
11.40 Problems.
12.10 am Anniversary Crisis, with Kay Medford, Lou Jacobi.
12.25 Epilogue.

(r) Repeat.

ATV

11.55 am, Dodo. 12.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, ATV News. 1.30, Thames. 5.15, Mediterranean Venture. 5.45, News. 6.00, ATV Today. 6.35, Crossroads. 7.00, Emmerdale Farm. 7.30, Thames. 11.40-12.40 am, Executive Suite.

Southern

12.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, Southern News. 1.30, Crown Court. 2.00, Houseparty. 2.25, Thames. 5.15, Captain Nemo. 5.20, Crossroads. 5.45, News. 6.00, Day by Day. 7.00, ATV. 7.30, Thames. 11.40, Southern News. 11.50, Play: The Hunted, with Edward Woodward, June Ritchie. 12.30 am, Weather. Epilogue.

Ulster

12.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, Lunchtime. 1.30, Thames. 5.15, Lassie. 5.45, News. 6.00, Ulster Television News. 6.05, Crossroads. 6.30, Reports. 7.00, ATV. 7.30, Thames.

HTV

12.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, West Headlines. 1.25, Wales Headlines. 1.30, Southern. 2.25, Thames. 5.15, Breaktime. 5.20, Southern. 6.00, Report West. 6.18, Report Wales. 6.35, Granada. 7.05, Happy Days. 7.35, The Bionic Woman. 8.30, Yer 'Tiz Then. 9.00, Thames. 11.40-12.35 am, ATV. HTV CYMRU/WALES: As HTV EXCEPT.—1.20-1.25 pm, Penawdau Newyddion Y Dydd. 4.20, Miri Mawr. 4.30-4.45, Seren Wib. 6.00-6.18, Y Dydd. 8.30-9.00, Sounds of Britain. 10.40, Gair Ar Gerdd. 11.25, World in Action. 11.55-12.25 am, International Darts. HTV WEST: As HTV except: 1.20-1.30 pm, West Headlines. 6.18-6.35, Report West.

Granada

12.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, This is Your Right. 1.30, Thames. 5.10, This is Your Right. 5.15, Crossroads. 5.45, News. 6.00, Granada Reports. 6.30, Emmerdale Farm. 7.00, Thames. 11.40-12.45 am, Police Woman.

Yorkshire

12.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, Calendar News. 1.30, Thames. 3.20, Calendar Tuesday. 3.50, Thames. 4.20, Lassie. 4.45, Magpie. 5.15, Star Maidens. 5.45, News. 6.00, Calendar. 6.35, ATV. 7.30, Thames. 11.40-12.35 am, Westside Medical.

Westward

12.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, Westward News Headlines. 1.30, Thames. 5.15, University Challenge. 5.45, News. 6.00, Westward Diary. 6.35, ATV. 7.00, Treasure Hunt. 7.30, Thames. 11.40, Pub Entertainer of the Year. 12.10 am, The Sound of Laughter. 12.35, Faith for Life.

Channel

1.18 pm, Channel News. 1.30, Thames. 5.15, University Challenge. 5.45, News. 6.00, Report at Six. 6.35, ATV. 7.00, Treasure Hunt. 7.30, Thames. 9.00, Survival. 9.10, Thames. 11.40, Pub Entertainer of the Year. 12.10 am, The Sound of Laughter. 12.35, News.

Anglia

12.00, Thames. 1.25 pm, Anglia News. 1.30, Southern. 2.25, Thames. 5.15, Emmerdale Farm. 5.45, News. 6.00, About Anglia. 6.35, ATV. 7.00, Rolf Harris. 7.30, Thames. 11.40, The Prisoner. 12.35 am, Christians in Action.

Border

12.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, Border News. 1.30, Southern. 2.25, Thames. 5.15, Out of Town. 5.45, News. 6.00, Border News. 6.35, ATV. 7.30, Thames. 11.45, Baretta. 12.40 am, Border News.

Tyne Tees

12.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, North East News. 1.30, Thames. 5.15, You Can Make It. 5.45, News. 6.00, Northern Life. 6.35, ATV. 7.30, Thames. 11.40, Gibbsville. 12.35 am, Epilogue.

Grampian

12.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, Grampian News Headlines. 1.30, Thames. 5.15, Get Some In. 5.45, News. 6.00, Grampian Today. 6.05, Country Focus. 6.35, ATV. 7.00, By Appointment ! 7.30, Thames. 11.40, ATV. 12.35 am, Reflections.

Scottish

12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, Bygones. 1.00, News. 1.25, Road report. 1.30, Thames. 5.15, Southern. 6.00, Scotland Today. 6.30, What's Your Problem ? 7.00, ATV. 7.30, Thames. 8.00, Thingummyjig. 9.00, Thames. 11.40, Late Call. 11.45-12.15 am, Love American Style.

Radio

1

6.00 am, News. Colin Berry.† 7.02, Noel Edmonds. 9.00, Simon Bates. 11.31, Paul Burnett. 2.02 pm, David Hamilton.† 4.31, DLT. 7.02, Beat the Record. 7.30, Robin Richmond.† 8.02, Among Your Souvenirs.† 9.02, Radio Orchestra.† 10.02, John Peel.† 12.00-12.05 am, News.

† Stereo.

2

6.00 am, Radio 1. 7.02, Terry Wogan.† (8.27, Racing bulletin.) 9.02, Pete Murray.† (10.30, Waggoners' Walk.) 11.30, Brian Matthew.† 1.50 pm, Sports Desk. 2.02, Radio 1. 4.30, Waggoners' Walk. 4.45, Sports Desk. 4.48, John Dunn.† 6.45, Sport. 7.02, Radio 1. 10.00, Hubert Gregg. 11.03, Sarah Kennedy. 12.-12.05 am, News.

3

6.55 am, Weather. 7.00, News. 7.05, Mozart, Schubert, Chopin, Debussy.† 8.00, News. 8.05, Prokofiev, Szymanowski, Janacek, Kodaly.† 9.00, News. 9.05, Berlioz.† 9.50, Academy of the BBC: J. C. and J. S. Bach, Schmitt.† 10.40, Choral Music: Poulenc, Huré, Auric, Saint-Saëns, Debussy.† 11.25, Harmonica, Guitar and Harpsichord: Harvey, Boccherini, Tate.† 12.10 pm, Cardiff concert, part 1: Beethoven. 1.00, News. 1.05, The Arts Worldwide. 1.20, Cardiff, part 2: Debussy, Haydn.† 2.10, In Short. 2.20, Chamber Music: Haydn, Beethoven.† 3.20, A Little Light Music.† 4.20, Harpsichord recital: d'Anglebert, le Roy, Couperin.† 5.15, Jazz Today.† 5.45, Homeward Bound.† 6.05, News. 6.10, Homeward Bound. 6.30, Nation at Work. 7.00, Reading after Ten. 7.30, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, part 1: Bach, Beethoven.† 8.30, James Stewart reads an Edgar Allan Poe story. 8.50, Concert, part 2: Bach, Honegger.† 9.30, Concert of American music.† 10.30, Piano recital: Haydn and Beethoven.† 11.25-11.30, News.

4

6.15 am, News. 6.17, Farming. 6.35, Up to the Hour. 7.00, News. 7.10, Today. 7.35, Up to the Hour. 8.00, News. 8.10, Today. 8.45, Yesterday in Parliament. 9.00, News. 9.05, Tuesday Call: 01-580 4411: Supplementary Benefits. 10.00, News. 10.05, Happiness Is. 10.30, Service. 10.45, Story. 11.00, News. 11.05, Play: Torrington Rises. 11.35, Profile. 12.00, News. 12.02 pm, You and Yours. 12.27, Desert Island Discs. 12.55, Weather. 1.00, News. 1.30, The Archers. 1.45, Woman's Hour. 2.45, Listen with Mother. 3.00, News. 3.05, The Making of Pickwick. 4.00, News. 4.05, Gardeners' Question Time. 4.35, Story: Decline and Fall. 5.00, PM Reports. 5.40, Serendipity. 5.55, Weather. 6.00, News. 6.30, The Burkiss Way. 7.00, News. 7.05, The Archers. 7.20, Time for Verse. 7.30, Radio 3. 9.35, Kaleidoscope. 9.59, Weather. 10.00, News. 10.30, A Good Read. 11.00, A Book at Bedtime: The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists. 11.15, The Financial World Tonight. 11.30, Today in Parliament. 11.45, News. 12.03-12.06 am, Inshore forecast.

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IN MEMORIAM

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 27

ANNOUNCEMENTS

URGENT—

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RICHARD INGRAMS, where is your writ?—Emma Jane.
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ADVERTISEMENT

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The mentally ill and mentally handicapped have been left a legacy of neglect. MIND brings them a legacy of hope.
The scale of appalling human suffering and waste caused by mental illness is daunting. But MIND responds with practical help to thousands in desperate need.

MIND works in the community:
By running play groups, day centres, social clubs and friendship schemes; by providing sheltered housing and employment; by providing a network of support through 140 local associations for those who have nowhere and nobody else to *turn to.*

MIND gives advice and information:
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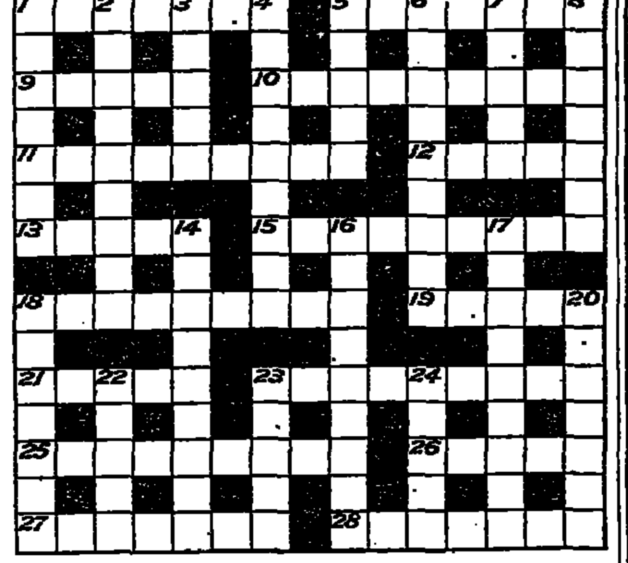
MIND campaigns:
To improve standards in our mental hospitals and the treatment and facilities available to patients; to get more help for those leaving hospitals; to get more national resources for mental health care.
MIND depends on voluntary support to continue this work: the donations, covenants, legacies and residuaries of estates of men and women who share our concern. They help MIND to leave a finer legacy than the one we inherited.
Please join them.

MIND
The National Association for Mental Health
Room 2Q, 22 Harley St., London W1N 2ED

EARLY MORNING CALLS

Hurry! Ring 01-837-3311

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 14,759



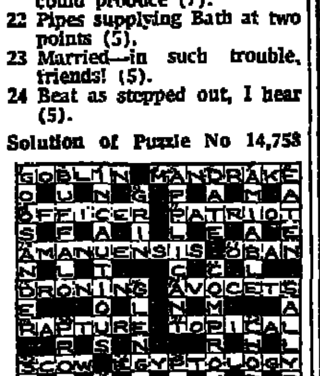
ACROSS

1 Makes foul passes (7).
5 Galley-slave? An insult to his son, so-called (3-4).
9 Cupboard for papers (5).
10 No strict control in the Merry Monarch's time, we hear (5, 4).
11 Avoids pies Ted cooked on board (4-5).
12 He wrote songs to direction: it shows return (5).
13 Seven faces of London (5).
15 Fast train to Bury? (5-4).
18 Like a dupe confounded, *giving* loud curse (9).
19 Fish traps of new design (5).
21 Flower from "Caledonia, stern and wild" (5).
23 Pretend to ache, say, for a drink (9).
25 Cooling drink—beer if possible—it's *stuffy inside* (9).
26 Applause for Sarah—five level (5).
27 Gives up right to oriental symbols (7).
28 It's no bother to repair a lute (7).

DOWN

1 Testified that deputy does mix up letters (7).
2 Scene of battle—meat and drink for this flying type (9).
3 Catalogues of tournament-sites (5).
4 Disarray of loser in battle (9).
5 Walrus's first talking-point (5).
6 Through which exposures are made (9).
7 Fences at which heavy-weights maybe lose their head (5).
8 In a queer way describing how Hamlet was cloaked, following the king (7).
14 In a hurry, bearing hot food —gin-rummy to follow (9).
16 Will has note sent about rating (9).
17 Unruly non-conformist (9).
18 Bargain? That's a teaser (7).
20 *Sound effect* reed-warbler could produce (7).
22 Pipes supplying Bath at two points (5).
23 Married—in such trouble, friends! (5).
24 Beat as stepped out, I hear (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 14,758



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TRAVELAIR

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HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

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IT'S THE BESTWAY TO TRAVEL

UP UP AND AWAY

The World and More with Allied Tours

A RAY OF SUNSHINE

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T stands for Travel
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BREAKFAST AND CHRISTMAS SHOPPING IN BED

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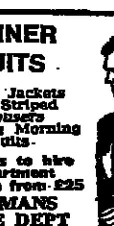
DINNER SUITS



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(continued on page 27)